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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 44

MONDAY MARCH 4, 2013

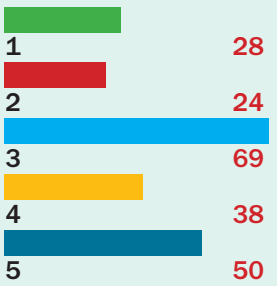
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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism in the new Inos-Hofschneider administration?



Sunday, March 3, 2013

INSIDE

NATION



Effort to find a man who was swallowed by a sinkhole is called off.

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FOCUS



How to create strong passwords and other security tips.

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LIFE & STYLE



Susan Boyle is making her big-screen acting debut.

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Wiseman rejects Buckingham's \$50K bail. PAGE 3
Governor extends hospital's state of emergency. PAGE 7

CUC hikes LEAC rate 7.15 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Families already grappling with high power rates face an additional burden following the announcement yesterday that power rates will go up in March.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed that the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, will be higher this month due to the continued rise in fuel costs in the world market.

From the existing \$0.29751 per
See CUC on Page 4

INOS ADMINISTRATION BACKS CW PROGRAM BEYOND 2014

US Labor urged to decide on transition extension by Aug.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With less than two years before the Dec. 31, 2014, end of the Commonwealth-only worker program, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has asked acting U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris not only to extend the transition period by five years or up to 2019 but also to make a decision "ideally within the next six months" from February—or by August.

» Obama retains Interior assistant secretary for insular areas post

Gov. Eloy S. Inos also supports a five-year extension of the transition period and will be communicating his position soon, press secretary Angel

Demapan said yesterday.

"[Inos] also expects...the U.S. Labor secretary [to] address the issue in consultation with the governor. Nonetheless, Governor Inos is supporting the need for a five-year extension," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

See TRANSITION on Page 4

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, seated right, join staff and volunteers for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter led by chapter director John Hirsh during Friday's ceremony declaring March 2013 American Red Cross Month. Red Cross relies on donations of time and money to fulfill its humanitarian mission worldwide.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 4

Borja is newest Tinian senator

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed late Thursday afternoon Joaquin Hoashi Borja of Tinian to fill the vacancy left by now Lt.

Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said that Borja will be sworn into office on Tuesday on Tinian where the Senate will hold a session and on the same day Hofschneider will hold a public investiture on the island.

"I thank the governor for his prompt action in filling a vacancy at the Senate,"

See BORJA on Page 4

Crisostomo linked to another killing in 2001

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo is also a "person of interest" in the killing of a woman who either jumped out or was thrown out from a moving car on Beach Road in Garapan in 2001.

Saipan Tribune learned that the victim, Ye Xiu Zhang, and the car she was on had just



Crisostomo

come from Kadena Di Amor St.—the same street where murdered bartender Emerita Romero entered a tinted car at about 3am on Feb. 5, 2012.

Sources disclosed that back in 2001, Crisostomo was a target of the police's investigation into the killing of Zhang. Sources said the investigation did not progress as there was no solid evidence to pin the crime on Crisostomo at the time.

A surveillance camera at Duty Free Shoppers caught the incident on tape when Zhang fell out from the car, but the footage was blurry, one source said.

According to Department of Public Safety records, police received a call on June 17, 2001, at 2:49am, about a woman lying on the ground near the Hard Rock Café along Beach Road, Garapan.

See CRISOSTOMO on Page 4



Borja



ENRO wins national award for environmental efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Environmental stewardship efforts of civic groups have served as an effective tool in promoting sustainable tourism in any community, and the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization is doing just that for the CNMI.

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Office on Saipan presented ENRO with the 2013 National Earth Team Award for its exceptional voluntary activities that improve the quality of life on the islands.

NRCS Saipan field office

staffers led by district conservationist Kendal Hicks handed out a trophy and plaque to ENRO in a ceremony held at the Northern Marianas College campus. Over a dozen student members were present to receive the national recognition, which they hope would pave the way for other students and organizations to follow suit in embracing environment-friendly practices.

Founded in 2010, the college-based group has about 30 active student members enrolled under the NMC Natural Resources Management department.

ENRO is recognized for its participation in several activities—the annual Environmental

Expo, Agricultural Fair, Laulau Bay revegetation efforts, farm visits with the NRCS Saipan field office team, and most notably the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of USDA last year.

About a dozen ENRO members braved the torrential rain in May 2012 to mark USDA's milestone by removing weeds and other wild plants overpowering the saplings planted in the Laulau Badlads.

Hicks said it was the NRCS Saipan field office that nominated ENRO for the award, and the youth organization outperformed other environmental groups throughout the nation in winning the award.

"I just think it's a fabulous and well-deserved honor. I think it's fitting that they were recognized given the hardships that they had to do, the level of work that they have contributed to the community," Hicks said.

ENRO president Severino P. Alforeza III said their organization is composed of youth volunteers who devote their time raising environmental awareness.

"Now that our efforts have been recognized, we hope to get more members who can help us out in making our islands a better place," he said.

ENRO's recognized activities were conducted during the term of its previous president, Tom Pangelinan, who touted the organization's teamwork as instrumental in achieving their mission.

"We want to reach out to as many members of the public through our future activities such as beach cleanups and school presentations," he added.

Dr. Alfredo B. De Torres, NRM department chairman whose efforts revived the once inactive ENRO, said his initiative to bring the group to life has

been inspired by *pahinungod*, a concept that denotes volunteerism and is widely popular in the Philippine university where he served as a faculty member.

WWII veterans groups to visit Saipan, Tinian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Three groups of World War II veterans are visiting the Northern Marianas this month, returning to battle sites for the first time decades after the war.

Director Gordon Marciano of PDI Promoters, Inc., which will be handling the group while in the islands, said the Military Historical Tours group will be staying from March 6 to 9.

The 10-member group will be led by Hal Johnson of the 4th Marine Division, who fought on Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Marshall Islands, Saipan, and Tinian; and B-29 pilot Leroy Florence, who arrived on Saipan in November 1944 as lieutenant in the 878th Squadron, 499th Bomb Group and subsequently left in August 1945.

MHT's John Powell is also expected to arrive to meet with veterans in the CNMI and discuss plans for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian on June 15, 2014.

The second group is under Valor Tours and is composed of Dan Owens, whose father and his best friend, Dan Godsy, served on B-29 on Tinian; David Wilson, whose father Bernard Eugene Wilson was a gunner with the 6th Bomb Group; Brent Petrie, whose uncle Harold B. Fulmer was with the 2nd Marine Division during the

Liberation of Saipan; and Hume "Andy" Giles, whose father was with the 4th Marine Division on Saipan and Tinian and whose uncle, Arthur Nunn, helped build the North Field on Tinian with the 67th Battalion Seabee.

The Ambrose group is composed of war veterans who served in areas other than the Northern Marianas.

Gordon said all three tour groups will be staying at Pacific Islands Club before heading to Iwo Jima.

"We're very grateful for PIC for their continued support for the veterans tour group and their families," he said.

The visiting veterans will take part in a wreath ceremony at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor at 9am on March 9.

The Valor Tours group will hold a similar ceremony on Tinian to be led by Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz on March 18.

Gordon said they will verify all veterans and their family members to make sure that they receive certificates and medallions during their stay in the CNMI.

He thanked the American Memorial Park, Marianas Visitors Authority, Veterans Affairs Office, and Jerry Facey.

"Since 1990, PDI continues to assist our veteran tour groups as their handling agents," added Gordon.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Staffers of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Saipan Field Office join members of the Environment and Natural Resources Organization at the Northern Marianas College for a group photo following the presentation of the 2013 National Earth Team Award last Friday.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Saipan Sports Fest 2013

March 6-17 marks **Saipan Sports Fest 2013** in the Northern Marianas, highlighted by the **12th Annual XTERRA Saipan Champion** on March 9 and the **24th Annual Tagaman Triathlon** on March 16.

But you don't have to be a hardened triathlete to join the Sports Fest fun. Check out the **XTERRA Saipan Scramble 5K and 10K** on Friday (March 8) benefitting **Northern Marianas Athletics**, the **XTERRA Kids Bike Race** for 10-and-under on Saturday (March 9) and the **Tagakids Triathlon** on March 16. For a full details and registration forms, visit www.saipansports.com.

Schedule of Events

PIC = Pacific Islands Club
AMP = American Memorial Park

Friday, March 8

12:00 p.m. – Tank to Tank Swim [Pickup available at PIC Lobby]
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – XTERRA Registration and Packet Pick-up [PIC]
4:00 p.m. – XTERRA Sunset Scramble 5k/10k registration [AMP]
5:00 p.m. – XTERRA Sunset Scramble 5k/10k Start [AMP]
6:00 p.m. – XTERRA Sunset Scramble 5k/10k Awards Ceremony [AMP]
6:00 p.m. – XTERRA Saipan Welcome Reception [PIC]

Saturday, March 9

5:00 a.m. – 6:15 a.m. – XTERRA Final Check-in and Body Marking [AMP]
6:30 a.m. – XTERRA Saipan Championship Start [AMP]
6:30 a.m. – XTERRA Sport Start [AMP]
7:30 a.m. – XTERRA Kids Bike Race [AMP]
11:00 a.m. – XTERRA Saipan Championship On-Site Awards Ceremony (Pros) [AMP]
7:00 p.m. – XTERRA Saipan Championship Awards Dinner [PIC]

Sunday, March 10

1:00 p.m. – XTERRA Saipan Championship Beach BBQ [Ladder Beach]

Monday, March 11

12:00 p.m. – Tank to Tank Swim [Meet at Kilili Beach South]
2:00 p.m. – Bike tour of Marpi

Tuesday, March 12

7:00 p.m. – Bike panel discussion by Pros for the public [PIC]

Wednesday, March 13

12:00 p.m. – Tank to Tank Swim [Meet at Kilili Beach South]
6:00 p.m. – Hash run [Bank of Guam parking lot, Garapan]

Thursday, March 14

1:00 p.m. – Best Ball Golf Tournament [Laolao Bay Golf Resort]
6:00 p.m. – "The Race" panel by Pros for the public [PIC]

Friday, March 15

11:45 a.m. – Tank to Tank Swim [meet at Kilili Beach South]
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – PACKET PICK UP [PIC]
7:00 p.m. – Tagaman Carbo Dinner [PIC]

Saturday, March 16

4:00 - 5:30 a.m. – Final Check In and Numbering [PIC]
6:00 a.m. – Tagaman [Start at PIC, Finish at Micro Beach]
1:00 p.m. – Tagakids Triathlon [Micro Beach]
7:00 p.m. – Tagaman Post Race Awards Banquet (St. Patrick's Day Theme)

Sunday, March 17

1:00 p.m. – Tagaman Post Race BBQ [Obyan Beach]

Local

Wiseman rejects Buckingham's \$50K bail

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has rejected the \$50,000 cashier's check that fugitive and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham

had posted for his bail.

"The posting of bail by [Buckingham's] attorney when the defendant is not in custody is not a procedure that can be found in any case, rule, or statute of the CNMI, and furthermore, does not have any significance or

consequence as to the pending case in its present procedural posture, and therefore, shall not be accepted," said Wiseman an order issued Friday.

The judge ordered that the \$50,000 posted by Buckingham's counsel, Brien Sers

Nicholas, be held by the court, "which shall consider instructions from the depositor as to its disposition."

Wiseman vacated the Superior Court's order dated Feb. 27, 2013, signed by a clerk of court that set Buckingham's arraignment for March 18, 2013.

Wiseman said that Buckingham is a fugitive from justice and is subject to the fugitive disentitlement doctrine previously set forth by the Superior Court and approved by the CNMI Supreme Court.

The judge said when a defendant wants to be released from custody, he or she may post the bail set and a date will be given to them for their next appearance in court.

ance in court.

"Defendant in this case is not in custody, has not subjected himself to the jurisdiction of the court, and cannot transform his status by a mere posting of money with the court as a circumvention or waiver of the personal jurisdiction that this court requires to proceed with the prosecution of this case," Wiseman said.

According to court records, Nicholas appeared at the Superior Court's clerk's office on Feb. 27, 2013, and submitted a cashier's check in the amount of \$50,000 and told the clerk it was for the posting of Buckingham's bail, as set forth in the outstanding warrant issued on Aug. 7, 2012.

The clerk received the check and, as per standard procedure,

issued a receipt and accompanying order for Buckingham to appear at an arraignment or other court hearing.

Wiseman found it necessary to vacate the clerk's order and to also vacate the March 18 arraignment date.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Wiseman issued an order declaring Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

The Office of Public Auditor filed criminal charges against Buckingham for alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.

An FBI agent served Buckingham with penal summons at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta Air Lines flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

Tebuteb: Courtesy resignation for all Cabinet members

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that all Cabinet secretaries and appointees of former governor Benigno R. Fitial should "turn in their courtesy resignation"—as expected during every change in administration—to give the new governor the chance to decide whether to retain any or all of his predecessor's appointees. Inos separately said on Friday he might announce today any more changes in the Cabinet.

"The former governor [Fitial] had the courtesy to resign, why can't his appointees do the same?" Tebuteb asked. "Every administration has to be given the opportunity to select their Cabinet. It is expected. And if an agency head is doing a good job and even if he or she turned in a courtesy resignation, the governor would most likely

retain him or her. But this is a show of courtesy to the new administration."

Tebuteb, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said that Cabinet members and governor's appointees "need not wait to be asked to submit [their] courtesy resignation; it comes with the turf."

Inos said Friday that most, if not all, agencies have turned in their performance reports, which will be critical in making a decision whether to retain or remove the Cabinet head or governor's appointee.

The new governor gave agencies until Thursday last week to submit both their budget requests and performance reports.

Inos said there were courtesy resignations forwarded to him but he has yet to make a decision on them.

"I know who they are but I'd rather wait until Monday

so I have a complete roster...I don't want to say [the names of] only those I came across," he told reporters.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Inos "has not asked for any other courtesy resignations at this time."

The only two who were asked to turn in their courtesy resignations were former senior policy adviser Dr. John Joyner and the former governor's executive secretary Lucy Cabrera. Inos said their replacements will be announced today or the next few days.

Inos was sworn into office on Feb. 20 within hours of Fitial's resignation under the rule of succession, days ahead of the latter's impeachment trial at the Senate set to start on March 7. Inos will have to finish Fitial's unfinished term until January 2015, but he is expected to seek election in the November 2014 race for a next full four-year term.

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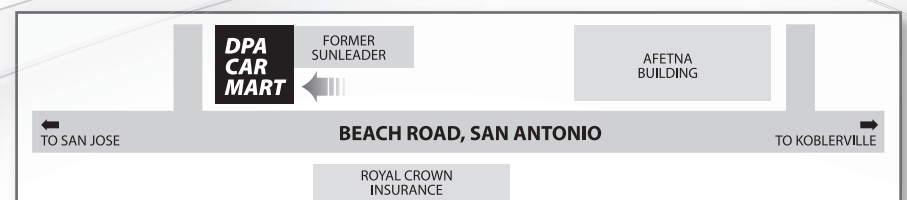
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March is Red Cross Month

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In keeping with their commitment to “work together,” Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider jointly proclaimed March 2013 American Red Cross Month during a Friday morning ceremony honoring “everyday heroes” who give of themselves to help their community, neighboring islands, the

nation, and the world through volunteerism, blood donation, taking life-saving courses, or financial donations.

Inos, during the ceremony attended by Red Cross staff and volunteers, said his administration will make it a policy to grant administrative leave to those who want to volunteer their time and services in accomplishing Red Cross initiatives.

In the past, either the governor or

the lieutenant governor would sign a proclamation. In the case of the 13-day old Inos administration, the governor said whenever he and Hofschneider are available, they will be signing proclamations together.

The Red Cross NMI Chapter works through its small staff and hundreds of volunteers to help when disaster strikes, provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, provides training in CPR, swimming, lifeguarding, and first aid.

“Our community here in the CNMI

depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time and money to fulfill its humanitarian mission. Despite these challenging times, the American Red Cross continues to offer help and comfort,” Inos and Hofschneider said their joint proclamation.

John Hirsh, American Red Cross NMI Chapter director, said while the chapter’s biggest responsibility is helping the community, it also helps its neighbor islands, the nation and other areas around the world, whether it be the major quake in Japan, a typhoon in Palau, or a typhoon that battered the East Coast.

“In addition to that, we also worked with two national societies in Pohnpei and in Palau to process all their service to the armed forces emergency messages. We’re kind of hub for that activity, not in Guam, but here up in NMI. So our case workers like JD, Kennedy, and Marian are handling pretty much on a weekly basis emergency requests coming from Kosrae or Chuuk, asking

for their service members to be made aware of critical medical condition,” Hirsh said.

Kennedy Benjamin, Red Cross service delivery manager for Health and Safety, also read a portion of a letter from one of the CNMI service members stationed abroad who received a care package from the CNMI under the Operation Homefront Support program that Red Cross spearheads.

The service member wrote, “I wasn’t expecting anything but sure enough it caught me off guard. What a sign of relief and mixed emotions when I opened up the package. I was in tears, deeply thinking how thankful I was to receive this kind of gift coming from the island we truly miss so much and the humble people that made this possible. And deeper into the package I found Chamorro Christmas songs and letters from grade school students with kind words of encouragement. These are the things that keep us going. Thank you to the great students of the CNMI.”

TRANSITION

From Page 1

The five-year extension request is one of the issues that Sablan asked Inos and other CNMI officials for support. Extending the program allows the CNMI continued access to more than 12,000 foreign workers.

Meantime, the Obama administration affirmed last week its commitment to retain the position of assistant secretary for insular areas in the U.S. Department of the Interior that Sablan said gives “enhanced status to island issues.” Anthony “Tony” Babauta recently vacated the post.

The earlier, the better

Sablan said that most CNMI employers will be considering future employment needs again in later 2013 and early 2014 so it is “critical that employers know prior to the onset of this timeframe whether the transition period will be extended.”

Skilled and professional foreign workers—mostly from the Philippines and China—account for some 54 percent of the workforce in the CNMI.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office said in 2012 that “the CNMI economy remains dependent on foreign workers.”

“Given the consultative process that the Department of Labor is mandated to engage in and the need for the department to gather and analyze data prior to making its determination, it is imperative that this process begin now, so that it can be completed later this year, when the cycle of business decisions regarding CW applications commences,” Sablan said in a Feb. 14 letter to Harris, a copy of which was released over the weekend.

As of yesterday, the Inos administration and other CNMI entities have yet to formally request the U.S. Labor secretary to extend the transition period, which is set to expire in less than two years.

Sablan said in his February letter that deciding on the proposed extension request within the next six months—or by August—will “alleviate ongoing uncertainties about the future availability of labor and the composition of the islands’ population, which are detrimental to individuals, businesses, and investment” in the CNMI.

The delegate also said that a grant of a five-year extension would not subvert the goal of U.S. Public Law 110-229 to replace foreign workers in the CNMI with U.S. workers because employers would continue to be required to demonstrate the unavailability of qualified U.S. worker before they are allowed to hire a foreign worker.

He said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services would also continue to monitor the overall need for available CW permits.

“An extension of the transition period would simply better fit the phase-out of foreign workers to an economically realistic timeframe, an adjustment that the law anticipated could be necessary,” Sablan added.

Impact on recovery

The delegate also said that uncertainty over the availability of labor beyond 2014 “could impede any recovery.”

Tourism arrivals have seen increases. Hotel occupancy rates reached 91 percent in January 2013, the highest since 1997. Room rates have also returned to 1998 levels.

USCIS also recently approved the first EB-5 Regional Center, “another positive sign,” Sablan added.

Lawmakers and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce have also backed extending the transition period beyond 2014.

The government and private sector said that losing access to skilled foreign workers will harm the tourism-based economy in a major way. These non-resident workers, many of them working legally in the CNMI for more than five years, include nurses, accountants,

engineers, electricians, mechanics, carpenters, house workers, and hotel and restaurant employees.

Sablan’s request for the CW program to be extended also comes at a time when the Obama administration and U.S. Congress members are working on a national immigration reform that includes giving pathway to citizenship to over 11 million undocumented aliens in the U.S. mainland.

Sablan is working with his colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to ensure that the CNMI is included in any national immigration reform legislation.

He is also currently working on a broader version of his H.R. 1466 to include other groups of long-term nonresidents that will be eligible for a CNMI resident status, or pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Obama on Interior post

During last week’s Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs, the Obama administration affirmed its commitment to retain the position of Interior assistant secretary for insular area.

In 2009, the president elevated the head of the Office of Insular Areas to the rank of assistant secretary, giving enhanced status to island issues.

Sablan initiated a letter from congressional delegates to Obama last month, urging retention of the assistant secretary position, so last week’s positive response was “welcome news,” the delegate said.

“The President also began his administration with a renewal of the IGIA itself. This provides a forum for raising issues of concern to island jurisdictions with the White House directly. Among the issues I identified for action is for the Department of Labor to make an early determination of an extension of the immigration transition period for another five years beyond 2014, when the transition is now scheduled to end,” Sablan added.

number of votes. As such, this letter serves to appoint you to the position of senator in the 18th CNMI Legislature, representing the Second Senatorial District,” Inos told Borja.

Borja ran under the former governor Benigno R. Fitial’s Republican Party in the Nov. 6 midterm elections, losing to Sen. Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian).

The appointed senator also finished third in the 2009 race won by Hofschneider and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian). His term will end in January 2015.

The Senate may have to deal with yet another vacancy if Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota)—who remains in jail—is convicted of charges related to smuggling endangered fruit bats.

Tinian session

In related news, Torres said the Senate will act on the administration-sponsored House bills increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage

points by April 1 and expediting the release of NMI Retirement Fund refunds during their session on Tinian on Tuesday at 2pm.

Torres said there is no question that all senators want to help prolong the Fund’s lifespan beyond 2014.

“None of the senators disagree in helping the DB [Defined Benefit Plan] members. However, this bill incorporated DC [Defined Contribution Plan] members too. What we plan to do is help the DB members and DC members on separate legislation. Current DC members should continue to be helped by the government by paying the 4 percent, but for the new ones, the government should not be responsible for paying the 4 percent,” Torres said.

The Senate president added that members will also be voting on Tuesday a House bill increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points.

CRISOSTOMO

From Page 1

Medics brought the injured woman, who was later identified as Zhang, to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she became unconscious due to head injuries. Zhang died on July 2, 2001, as a result of her injuries.

Traffic officers initially thought that Zhang had been hit by a vehicle. Investigators, however, later discovered that the victim either fell out or was thrown out from a moving vehicle that was heading north in front of Hard Rock Café.

An autopsy revealed that Zhang died from blunt trauma to her head. Police classified the case as a homicide.

In January 2004, then Crime Stoppers coordinator and now Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. issued an announcement, encouraging anyone who may have seen the vehicle that Zhang was riding on that day of June 17, 2001, to call the Crime Stoppers Tips Line.

CUC

From Page 1

kilowatt-hour charge, CUC has approved a new rate of \$0.31878 per kWh, which translates to a 7.15-percent increase.

The new rate is effective tomorrow, March 5.

For the average CUC customer who uses 500 kWh a month, the adjustment translates to an increase of about \$9.47 a month.

LEAC is part of the customer’s bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

The last time the LEAC rate was adjusted was in January, when CUC reduced it by 4.6 percent.

For Yolly Benavente, a mother of three from Capital Hill, the increase would mean even more stringent energy conservation for her family. They pay \$175 to \$200 monthly for their power.

Although she understands the rationale behind the power rate hike, Benavente is still sad to see the rate going up, especially at this time.

“Any additional cost to the family’s expenses is always a concern...so I

“Someone may have seen Zhang or the vehicle earlier in the evening on the roadway from Diane’s Poker out to Beach Road by Big Dipper heading north,” Blas said.

Sources said that investigators suspected that Zhang struggled in the car and either jumped out or she was pushed out from the moving vehicle.

Saipan Tribune was able to confirm over the weekend that Diane’s Poker changed ownership in 2007 and is now called Ace Poker I. Big Dipper’s office also used to be along Beach Road near the corner of Kadena Di Amor St.

Ace Poker I, located along Asusena Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St., is only a few steps away from where Romero was last seen alive.

Investigators learned that on Feb. 5, 2012, at about 3am, Crisostomo’s car stopped in the grassy parking lot of Saint Michael’s Medical Response along Kadena Di Amor Street corner Chichirica Avenue.

Crisostomo, 39, is charged in the kidnapping and murder of Romero.

don’t think we have other way to cope with this than to continue conserving energy to avoid paying for too high for power,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

As soon as he learned about the anticipated power rate hike this week, Mico Moran immediately started revising his family’s budget for the month.

Moran is a father of two and they live in Lower Navy Hill. His family has been strictly monitoring their power and water usage since utility rates started going up.

He shared that from their previous four-hour daily air-conditioning use, this was reduced to three hours to realize some savings. With the new rate resulting in higher costs, he said he will have to revisit their spending plan. He cited other areas in the family’s expenses such as gas and grocery that may be adjusted to cope with the added power cost. Moran’s family pays an average of \$120 a month for their power use.

Other CUC customers interviewed yesterday described the new rate as “not surprising” since CUC relies heavily on its own revenue for operations. However, they remain optimistic that someday CUC’s rates will be aligned with the cost in other territories and states, which are lower than what CUC charges.

CUC has about 14,000 power customers.

BORJA

From Page 1

Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said that Borja will be offered to chair the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies.

Borja observed the Senate session on Capital Hill late Thursday morning, hours before the Senate received at 4:23pm a copy of the governor’s letter appointing Borja as Tinian senator.

Article II Section 9 of the NMI Constitution states that if less than half of the term remains, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who got the largest number of votes.

“According to the Commonwealth Election Commission’s election results, you received the next largest

Police's action at sobriety checkpoint found lawful

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The action of police officers at a sobriety checkpoint to direct a scooter driver to a citation area has been found lawful. The scooter operator was later allegedly found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

In denying defendant Fu Zhu Lin's motion to suppress evidence, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja determined that Lin's investigatory detention in the citation area was supported by reasonable suspicion of a violation of Commonwealth law, and was in compliance with the CNMI and U.S. constitutions.

Naraja said that Lin's failure to display a current registration sticker on his scooter's license plate violated Commonwealth law and provided the "greeter" at the checkpoint reasonable suspicion that he was in violation of the law.

Lin is charged with one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

According to court records, on Dec. 24, 2011, Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas and police officer Rodolfo S. Hermosilla seized a small baggie containing "ice" from Lin's companion, Mei Ying Qi, after the officers saw Lin passing the item to Qi at a sobriety checkpoint in Chalan Piao.

Lin was driving a scooter with Qi as his passenger when they were randomly waved

into the sobriety checkpoint by an officer.

Upon entering the checkpoint, Lin encountered another officer, known as the "greeter." The greeter's job is to briefly inspect the vehicles and their occupants for signs of "intoxicated drivers, people not wearing seat belts, and other traffic violations, including motorists

who have expired or missing vehicle registration stickers on their license plates." Naraja said the greeter observed an expired 2005 registration sticker on the license plate of Lin's scooter.

Based on this observation, the greeter directed Lin and Qi to the citation area. Lin and Qi met Macaranas and Hermosilla.

At the citation area, Hermosilla asked Lin for his license and registration. Lin failed to produce a driver's license or identification, and provided the officer with only an expired registration card for the scooter.

Hermosilla wrote a traffic citation and then arrested Lin for driving a motor vehicle without a driver's license. Macaranas then did a pat-down search of Lin and noticed Lin hand something to Qi, who immediately concealed the item in her blouse.

The officers retrieved the item, which later tested positive for "ice."

Lin, through assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, asked the court to exclude

all evidence obtained during Lin's brief detention in the citation area.

Guidotti conceded that the initial stop at the checkpoint was lawful, but argued that it became unconstitutional the moment the greeter directed Lin to the citation area for further inquiry without reasonable suspicion of a violation of Commonwealth law.

Assistant attorney general Margo A. Brown opposed the motion.



Naraja

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rescission Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Rescission Hearing** is scheduled for **March 8, 2013, (Friday) at 10:00 a.m.**, and if need be to continue on **March 11, 2013, (Monday) at 9:30 A.M.** at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216, Saipan.

The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parole

1. DIAZ, David Tanaka

Cr. Cs. No.: 01-0381E
BOP No.: 10-005

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog
Hearing Examiner

Date: 2/26/2013

'Shared ownership key to a successful agri cooperative'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With CNMI agricultural producers on the cusp of creating another cooperative, a visiting expert emphasized the need to understand the importance of "shared business" to make it successful.

California Cooperative Development Center executive director E. Kim Coontz said in an interview that a cooperative requires participation and commitment from its membership to set and maintain quality standards for their goods to make it competitive in the market.

Cooperative stakeholders, Coontz added, also must recognize their ownership value in the organization, which is in fact a "shared business."

By doing so, Coontz said agricultural producers in the Commonwealth will be able to achieve "economies of scale" or the cost advantage, better access in marketing their products, and other benefits that a farmer cannot avail of when acting individually.

Coontz and Luis Sierra, CCDC assistant director and food and agriculture cooperative development specialist, facilitated the Agricultural Cooperative Development Training organized by the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market, Inc.

The event, held at Fiesta Re-

sort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall from Feb. 27 to March 1, gave participants in-depth training and understanding about the cooperative business model, the steps to starting a cooperative, and case studies on a variety of co-op models and experiences.

Coontz said Friday that the three-day training is only the first step toward having CNMI farmers establish their own cooperative.

"You want to do this in steps," she said. "Forming a cooperative takes a while because you're forming a business."

Coontz believes that local farmers are now ready to start up another cooperative, saying that they are "astute" and "good business people" because they know their own products.

"I think that by working together, they will accomplish even more," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

While there is a lot of opportunity in creating a cooperative, Coontz reminds local farmers to bear in mind the pointers they've been taught, including the preparation of a business plan and conducting a feasibility study.

Coontz, whose extensive experience in cooperative development includes knowledge gained from a network of co-

operative developers across the nation, said the main issues involving cooperatives "have to do with people."

"People need to trust and to be transparent in the way they do their business. They need to be really clear. I think we all share the same issues and the same temptations and we all need to learn from each other," she said.

Since the Commonwealth is a string of islands, Coontz recommends that each island have its own cooperative and that agricultural producers should have a focused co-op for their particular product. For example, vegetable growers should have a separate co-op from ranchers. These distinct co-ops, however, could interact through association.

Coontz said the CCDC looks forward to maintaining a relationship with the agricultural community in the Northern Marianas, adding that local farmers can also draw on resources and assistance through agriculture-related entities on island such as the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services and the Saipan field office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Coontz

Core group

SSFMI president Ramon B. Camacho said the training was "very detailed" and provided them with the knowledge "that would make a cooperative ultimately work for us."

Camacho said a core group has been created halfway through the training to make the agricultural cooperative a reality in the Commonwealth.

The group, composed of

representatives of the SSFMI, NMC-CREES, Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, will be led by NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona.

Camacho said the group will work not only on the getting the co-op off the ground but will also request the Inos administration to designate the Garapan Fishing Base to the future cooperative.

Although the facility is reserved for a potential investor,

Camacho said that \$200,000 has already been appropriated for the creation of a farmers market. With the efforts to create a co-op, Camacho said the government can assign the facility to the farming community until such time that the investor is actually ready to develop the property.

Camacho believes that they will have the support of the new administration as Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider is also a farmer and would be able to relate to the plea of the farming community.

USP4GG pushes for Medicare portability

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance continues to push for Medicare portability for Filipino-American patients from the Northern Marianas and Guam.

USP4GG leaders led by national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis and Marianas chapter chair Celia Lamkin met with Guam Gov. Ed Calvo, Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, and other officials last Feb. 19.

Lamkin said in an email response that their group has been advocating for a "direct billing" instead of a "reimbursement" system for Medicare patients.

With the direct billing system, Medicare patients from the CNMI and Guam will no longer have to pay upfront when they avail of emergency medical services in accredited hospitals in

the Philippines—if these services and specialists are not available in the Marianas.

Lamkin said the reimbursement system takes a long time, sometimes up to a year, before the patients are reimbursed for their expenses.

She noted that many of these U.S. citizens would like to retire in the Philippines where the cost of medical services is a third of the cost in the mainland—"a lot cheaper" given the same quality of services and availability of state of the art equipment and facilities.

"In this regard, Medicare will save a lot of money," Lamkin said.

She revealed that Lewis requested Bordallo during the meeting to introduce in Congress a Medicare portability bill that would include Fil-Ams throughout the nation and who have

Medicare as their insurance.

"Bordallo was very positive in her response. Bordallo asked her resident director, Andrew Tenorio, to work on the draft of the bill," Lamkin told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lamkin added that they also brought up the immigration issue and the situation of construction workers in the CNMI with Calvo.

While Calvo noted the availability of jobs in Guam for skilled workers, Human Resource Development director Alfred Antolin cited the need for a Filipino skilled worker to be certified by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or TESDA.

Lamkin said USP4GG will work with the Guam Philippine Consulate regarding the TESDA certification and the Medicare portability.



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Governor extends hospital's state of emergency

»Corporation board to decide on Babauta's contract this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO and
MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTERS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended an executive order declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Friday, citing the continued need to pump funding to the hospital from outside CHC sources, a year after the original declaration was issued by former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

The emergency declaration since March last year allows for reprogramming of funds to CHC and suspends other statutory or regulatory provisions relating to the corporation.

In the new declaration, Inos indicated that the disruption of the provision of medical services by the Commonwealth Health Center poses a direct

threat to the health and safety of people.

In an interview hours before extending the CHC emergency declaration, Inos said he had met with CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta and board members who separately talked about continuing "challenges" faced by the hospital.

Inos said CHC has been notified by federal authorities that, due to remaining deficiencies in CHC's operations and infrastructure, the hospital will cease to be eligible for Medicare/Medicaid payments, along with other penalties if the deficiencies are not promptly remedied.

"I think we all agreed we need to continue effort to bring stability to the HealthCare [Corp.]. Taking care of the citizens is the primary responsibility," Inos told reporters.

The governor said funding for CHC is "still critical."

"In order for us to be able to...mobilize funds and so forth or utilize outside CHC funds, an executive order is required," Inos added.

Babauta welcomes the governor's latest declaration, saying this demonstrates that a lot still needs to be done at the corporation.

"The declaration continues to demonstrate that there still a lot of things needed to be done here; that the authority of the governor needs to be in place in view of everything that's going on. The new governor had extended his assistance to CHCC...and this is his way of continuing that effort," Babauta said yesterday, confirming that he met with the governor Wednesday last week.

CHC provides not only the

bulk of healthcare in the CNMI but also emergency medical services, so any disruption in these services poses a direct threat to people's health and safety.

The corporation is currently in arrears for payments to vendors and certain salary payments to or on behalf of employees.

Inos also extended the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Feb. 20, shortly after he was sworn in as governor.

Critical posts

On March 12, Babauta disclosed that all team members from the

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps will officially leave the corporation, leaving behind some critical posts unfilled such as the laboratory manager and a lab director.

Babauta revealed that once the team submits its "sustainability plan" upon exit, he will review and discuss its content with Inos and leaders of the Legislature.

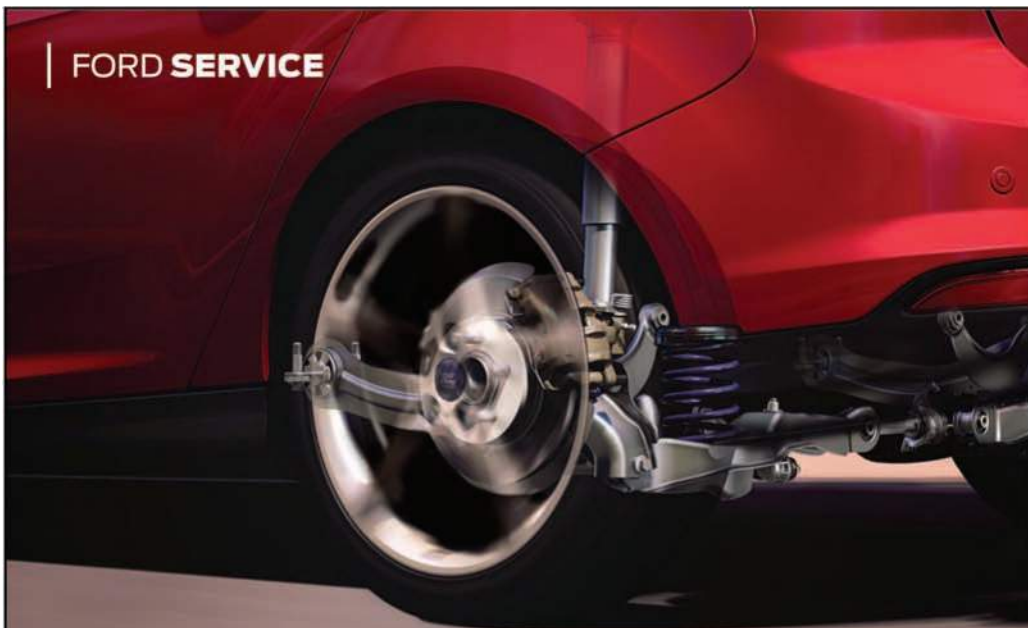
"If it [plan] requires an emergency power to implement some of their recommendations, it will be very appropriate," explained Babauta, adding that the corporation has requested the

assistance of the Office of Insular Affairs and HHS in hiring a lab manager and lab director.

The corporation's board of trustees is gearing up for this week's meeting where it will decide the fate of Babauta's continued employment.

An employees' survey is being conducted right now to aid the board in assessing the CEO's performance.

Babauta, who was earlier criticized by the board for leading a "dysfunctional" system at the agency, was mum on the issue about his contract and the possible decision that may be rendered by the board. Babauta's \$96,000 per annum contract is expiring in July this year.



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Tottotville insurance firm files for bankruptcy

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An insurance company that owes \$5 million to several creditors, mostly homeowners of the controversial Tottotville Subdivision, has filed for bankruptcy in federal court.

Telebond Insurance Corp., through counsel Timothy Bellas, filed Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Telebond is the performance bond insurer for the Tottotville Subdivision project's general contractor, Telesource CNMI Inc.

Under a Chapter 7 petition, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible

to pay off debts over a period of three to five years.

Telebond claimed it has \$201,114.08 in total assets, but has \$5,021,701.12 in liabilities. Of the \$5,021,701.12 in total liabilities, \$5,021,114.37 is for creditors holding unsecured nonpriority claims, while the rest or \$586.75 was for creditors holding unsecured priority claims.

For nonpriority claims, the company owes, among others, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. \$694,850.73 and a total of \$4,275,644 to 44 homeowners that belong to the Jessica

Castro Group and Joseph Flores Group.

The homeowners filed a lawsuit in 2006 against NMHC, SSFM International Inc., Telesource, and Telebond for allegedly defrauding them in the construction of defective homes in Koblerville.

In November 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos declared that Telebond Insurance is jointly liable for \$1,889,738 in damages arising from the defective construction of the homes belonging to the Castro Group and \$694,850.73 for indemnifying NMHC.

In January 2011, it was re-

ported that NMHC settled with 35 of the 45 homeowners.

In December 2012, the same 44 homeowners—34 from the Castro Group and 10 from the Flores Group—received checks and cash out of the \$4.25 million settlement from project manager SSFM International Inc.

Joaquin DLG. Torres, counsel for the Flores Group, then disclosed that Inos' judgment in July 2012 awarded to homeowners and NMHC \$4.99 million, but it ended up with \$4.25 million settlement.

The Flores Group had settled their claims against SSFM. The law offices of O'Connor is representing Telesource and Telebond.



Bellas

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 4, 2005

Commerce director terminated

Commerce director Jesus Muna said yesterday that he has been terminated without cause after he aligned himself with the Covenant Party. "I have no doubt in my mind that I was terminated for political reasons. It's all politics," said Muna, the head of Commerce's Alcohol, Beverage, and Tobacco Control Division, in a news briefing held yesterday at the Covenant Party's headquarters on Middle Road. Muna said he had supported the Republican Party in the past but due to his dissatisfaction with the Babauta administration, he chose to join the opposition. He said rumors about his termination circulated in the department shortly after he was reported to have accepted the post as Precinct 1 chairman for the Covenant in January.

'NMI govt still has right over marine resources'

Despite losing an appeal asserting ownership of the Northern Marianas' submerged lands, the Commonwealth government still retains the power to enforce regulations that prohibit the taking of marine resources from designated sanctuaries. The Superior Court has ruled that the CNMI government could regulate the taking of marine resources regardless of the outcome on the dispute over the ownership of submerged lands, saying that regulation is a matter of self-government. The court also ruled that Public Law 12-46, which designated certain areas as marine sanctuaries, is not related to the CNMI's claim to some 264,000-square miles of submerged lands in the Northern Marianas.

Mar. 4, 2006

Over-the-cap request withdrawn

The Fitial administration has formally withdrawn a request for an over-the-cap salary for one of its appointees. Linda T. Cabrera, special assistant for programs and legislative review, wrote the Legislature to recall a Feb. 14, 2006, letter sent by then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez asking the lawmakers to certify an over-the-ceiling salary for John P. Del Rosario Jr. Del Rosario is the governor's senior policy adviser. He has also been appointed to serve as the interim secretary of the Department of Public Lands, which replaces the newly abolished Marianas Public Lands Authority.

AG clarifies med referral staff issues

The Attorney General's Office has clarified the responsibility and authority of liaison officers with respect to Department of Public Health staff assigned to the medical referral programs in Hawaii and Guam. According to Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, liaison officers have no statutory authority over the medical referral program. Their duties are limited to assisting the governor in executing CNMI laws, regulations and policies regarding off-island medical referrals, student assistance, and other matters. "[But] it is the Department of Public Health that has established and administers the medical referral program," Gregory said in a legal opinion issued at the request of the Office of Personnel Management.

Mar. 4, 2008

Pula: OIA budget plan fortifies private sector

The proposed budget for the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs will support private sector development in the insular areas, according to the lead official for Washington's relationships with U.S. territories and freely associated states. Nikolao Pula, the acting deputy assistant secretary of insular affairs, recently told a congressional hearing that OIA's FY2009 budget request will "continue efforts to promote economic sustainability throughout the territories and freely associated states." OIA administers, on behalf of the Interior secretary, the federal government's relationship with the territories of Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI.

Ban sought vs smoking in public places in NMI

Smoking may be banned in restaurants, bars, and workplaces in the Northern Marianas under a bill that has been introduced in the House of Representatives. House Bill 16-47, sponsored by Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, proposes to make public places smoke-free. Exemptions include open-air bars, hotel rooms, and outdoor jobsites. In his 14-page bill, Quitugua cites a long list of studies concerning ill health effects of secondhand smoke. He also says analyses have shown a link between a smoking ban and the profitability of restaurants and hotels.

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House OKs domestic violence law; funding doubles for NMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday approved a reauthorization of VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, sending the bill to the President for signature. The reauthorization doubles funding to the Northern Mariana Islands for the Sexual Assault Services Program, tracking legislation introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the last Congress.

“The problem of domestic violence is all too common in the Northern Mariana Islands, so any extra funding we can

obtain to help victims is most welcome,” said Sablan. “It took almost two years to get this passed, but improving the assistance we can give to people who are attacked in this way makes it well worth the effort.”

The Sexual Assault Services Program grant can be used for 24-hour hotline services and for linguistically and culturally specific outreach activities. The funds are also used to provide a companion or advocate for victims of violence, as they face the medical and legal aftermath of being sexually assaulted.

Sablan introduced legislation, H.R. 4195, in the 112th Congress, upping the program’s formula funding to the Northern Mariana Islands and the other U.S. territories. In the 113th Congress he was able to get a provision increasing funding for territories into H.R. 11, the Democratic bill reauthorizing VAWA, and into its Senate companion, S. 47.

A reauthorization of VAWA passed the Senate in 2012 with bipartisan support, but the Republican-controlled House failed to act on the measure. On the House floor Friday, the Republican leadership first offered a weaker substitute to the Senate bill but could not get enough of their own party members to vote in favor of the measure. In a second vote 87 Republicans joined

with 199 House Democrats to pass the bipartisan Senate bill.

“[Fri]day’s vote for reauthorization of VAWA sends a strong message that we are standing up against the physical injury and the psychological harm that comes from the domestic and sexual violence in communities across our nation,” Sablan said.

“In addition to extending a hand to the victims, approval of the Act for another five years also honors the work of the families and friends of victims and of the police and prosecutors, counselors and advocates, who assist them.

“In the Northern Marianas, I want to say thank you to Karidat, Guma Esperansa, the Family Violence Task Force, Nurturing Transformative and Sustainable Communities, the

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Ayuda Network, the Office of the Attorney General, the Family Court, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, and the Department of Public Safety for responding to the scourge of domestic violence and sexual assault. All of these agencies and the people who work in them have done so much to help victims and their families.”



Programs reauthorized in VAWA Friday include STOP and Transitional Housing Assistance grants, as well as the Sexual Assault Services Program, providing victims with legal assistance, shelter, and supervised visitation services and addressing the unique barriers faced by victims in rural areas, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

The reauthorization will put more rape kits in the hands of law enforcement and underwrite a national registry of forensic evidence from sexual assault cases, strengthen criminal anti-trafficking statutes, and address domestic violence on college campuses.


S. 47 also amends the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which extended federal management of immigration to the Northern Marianas. Women who petition for status as victims of human trafficking or violence will be allowed to count the time lived in the Northern Marianas prior to the CNRA going into effect as time present in the United States. This will allow these women to more quickly adjust to a permanent immigration status. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS


Happy, happy birthday, Mommy Jen. With love, your girls Nae Nae and Nanah. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Neveah Faithe Vilagomez Mai! We wish you the best of everything every single day of our lives, Veah. But today's your birthday and we wish you the double of the best of everything. We love you! Greetings come from Nina Carley, Mommy, Daddy, and the family! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Daddy and Grandma Vicky! Love you both to pieces. Love, Jesselle, Jesse Boy, and JoDanny. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

KRISNALYN D. REYES) FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
) NO. 12-0478
vs.)
) SUMMONS FOR
MARLON V. REYES) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOUR ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501932, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

William Kenneth C. Belyeu
P.O. Box 503129
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 285-3775

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

William Kenneth Castro Belyeu) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
) NO. 13-0078
vs.)
) SUMMONS FOR
Sharon Kay Faulkner) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO: Sharon Kay Faulkner



YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to William Kenneth C. Belyeu whose address is P.O. Box 503129 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROJECT BRABU

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention Unit - Project Brabu is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for eligible communities in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG):

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

- Build Prevention Capacity and Infrastructure in the CNMI**
- Prevent the Initiation of and Reduce Substance Abuse, Including Childhood and Underage Drinking**
- Reduce Substance Abuse-related Problems**
- Evaluate All Activities**

FY 2013 \$ 450,000

The SPF SIG provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Project Brabu and the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW):

- Underage Drinking, and/or**
- Drinking and Driving**

This grant award requires a Strategic Prevention Framework to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

- Assessment:** Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
- Capacity:** Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
- Planning:** Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
- Implement:** Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
- Evaluate:** Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

The Project Brabu Advisory Council will make the final recommendation in consultation and collaboration with the SPF SIG Project Director on applications to be awarded based on a point system. Ranking and scoring by the Scoring Committee and/or the Advisory Council interview process are not subject to protest or appeal. **Upon notification of an interview with the Advisory Council, organizations are required to appear on the scheduled day. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of the application.** The grant application guidelines detail the information required and the points under each of the sections.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: DPH Project Brabu’s office on Saipan and the Prevention Coordinators on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2013.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Project Brabu Office at the CHCC: DPH or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian. Also, the application form and guidelines are available online at www.cgcsn.net. For more information, please contact Ms. Tiara Evangelista at 236-8740 or ti.evangelista@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com ; or Ms. Avery Hocog, Prevention Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or projectbraburota@yahoo.com.

Pre application workshops are scheduled as follows:

- March 27 (Saipan), LaoLao Bay Resort Saipan
- April 5 (Tinian), TBD
- April 12 (Rota), TBD

These workshops will provide on-site technical assistance in discussing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) 5-step process, the sub grant components and requirements. The workshops are available to interested community members/agencies and are free of charge; however, slots are limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the coordinators on each respective island to pre-register.

/s/ **Mr. Claudio Norita**
Chairman, Advisory Council

/s/ **Mrs. Reyna Saures**
SPF SIG Project Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 44Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Voting for women, and against violence

After more than a year of bitter partisan fighting, Congress on Thursday finally reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, including new provisions that will extend the law's protections for gay, lesbian, transgender and Native American victims of domestic violence. It's about time.

There is no rational explanation for why lawmakers took so long to reauthorize this legislation, which was first enacted in 1994 and had been renewed twice with broad bipartisan support. Admittedly, the revised law covers a broader group of victims. That was apparently too much for some Republicans in the House, who sought to substitute a weaker bill for the one passed by the Senate, arguing that the new protections either went too far or were prone to fraud.

What the newly reauthorized legislation will actually do is provide help to all victims of domestic violence, regardless of their sexual orientation, immigration status or where the assault took place.

The expanded act will provide protections to same-sex couples. It will preserve the protection given to undocumented women, by allowing them to apply for a special permit, known as a U visa, which provides temporary legal status to victims who help police investigate crimes. And it will toughen penalties for sex trafficking.

Whether House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, was persuaded to relent and bring the bill to the floor as part of a political strategy to improve the GOP's tarnished image with women voters, or because he actually came to believe that the good in the bill outweighed the bad, isn't important. In the end, what matters is that the House, for at least a moment, overcame its partisan dysfunction. And that victims of domestic violence and abuse will once again be protected by the law.

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A bipartisan vote to protect women

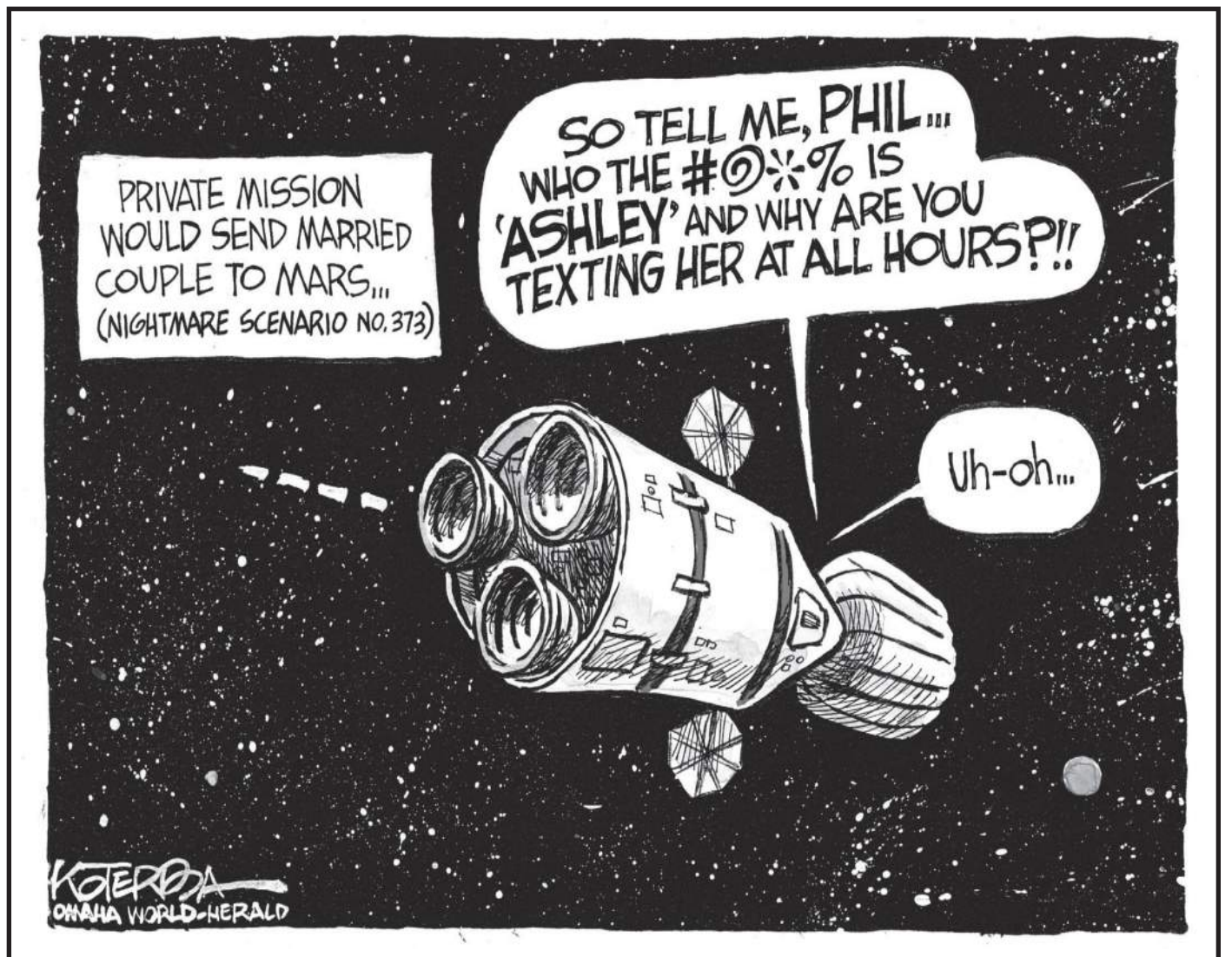
The U.S. House has reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, a common-sense piece of legislation stalled for more than a year by Republicans' regrettable tendency to demonize too many issues backed by President Barack Obama and other Democrats.

The 2013 decision was an about-face from 2012, when the House refused to approve a Senate-passed version of the act. The Senate also got first crack at the bill this year, endorsing it, 78-22, in mid-February.

The act expands protections of women to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It also offers expanded protections for gays, undocumented immigrants and Native American women who suffer from domestic abuse.

This should have been an easy issue for both parties to come together on, even as Washington remains split on so many fiscal matters. At least the right decision was ultimately made to give more women equal rights under the law.

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The Northern Marianas Trades Institute must continue

For the past few months, the Northern Marianas Trades Institute has been silent. Though it has not been able to offer any courses, it is keeping its doors open, waiting for a miracle to happen. NMTI needs funds badly.

Currently there are about 180 enrolled local students who wish to continue or begin their training in trades requiring technical construction skills. What has happened that the funds dried up?

As you may recall the institute was founded in 2008 as a non-profit and privately-owned organization to train local citizens in various trades to replace the nonresident workers who are slowly required to return to their countries of origin. Since its opening, many students have been trained and have found jobs.

The institute is certified by the National Center for Construction and Research Education. This means that all students who graduate can become trades apprentices or go into a job requiring a trade's skill. The certification is good nationwide.

In the past the institute received funds from the U.S. Department of Labor obtained by Congressman Kilili, funds from the Department of the Interior, the Workforce Investment Agency, from our own local government, and donations from private companies such as Tan Holdings and others.

Because most of the students are very poor, with little or no income, they cannot afford tuition. As a result NMTI has had to go begging to continue its training. To date over 600 students have either graduated or spent some time in one or more courses.

Recall that for the past few years, all employers have had to contribute money to the federal government to renew their non-resident workers' contracts. To date an approximate amount of \$1.8 million has been paid by local employers seeking a CW1 for their employees. Then the federal government turned this money over to our local government, stating that it be used for training our local citizens.

As a result of this request some money was given to PSS and NMC. Neither institution has been using this money to train local citizens for skilled trades. They have used the money to pay off some bills or to supplement their current activities. This is not a complaint, but the community needs skilled plumbers, electricians, painters, and all the other construction trades people.

In 2012, when the government was discussing its budget for 2013, both the House and Senate appropriated \$500,000 from the CW1 funds to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to continue its training. The Legislature fully understood the value for training our local citizens for skilled trades professions. With this money the institute could really offer a multitude of courses and even accelerate

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



its training programs from two days a week to five. But this moment of joy was short-lived.

When the appropriation reached our former governor's desk, he vetoed the entire \$500,000 with no explanation. This is the only item he wholly vetoed. Calls, emails, and attempts to get a meeting with him were totally ignored. I asked others to ask him about the issue but they got no reply. I guess he didn't think our people could learn a trade or didn't need to. I have tried to find out where this \$500,000 is but cannot find it. As a result NMTI is in a state of limbo.

Meanwhile our local non-employment rate keeps climbing as does our food stamp line. The CNMI has about 11,000-plus food stamp recipients. Meanwhile there are almost 12,000 nonresident workers. Yes, the jobs are there but we must first train our people to replace our nonresident workers.

Many employers plus the Saipan Chamber of Commerce are begging the federal government to extend the CW1 permits for five years. This is supposed to give our local citizens a chance to learn a trade.

Frankly speaking, if I worked for the federal government and was requested by the CNMI to extend the CW1 permits, I would ask, "What have you done or are doing to train your local citizens for jobs?" What will our answer be?

With this act by the former governor, how can they learn a trade and where? Most of the students do not have two pennies to rub together. This is why we cannot charge tuition. The institute builds hope for them.

At the institute the student learns about the three H's. The first H is for Head—proper attitude. The second H is for Heart—respect for customers, work ethics, his tools and employer. The third H is for Hands—the ability to use one's hands to create things. The institute teaches the whole student, not just work skills.

In addition to training the students, the institute finds work
See NORTHERN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Cultural diversity**

Cultural diversity is defined as cultural variety and cultural differences that exist in the world, a society, or an institution. Many people with different backgrounds, ethnicities, nationalities, and a multitude of national origin converge in one community or place. Personally, my definition of cultural diversity is a multitude of ethnic origins in a community that co-mingles and interacts with each other for diverse reasons—economic, educational, social, or political.

In a workbook exercise called *Teaching About Culture, Ethnicity, & Diversity*, Miriam Ma'at-Ka-Re Monges contributed an essay for background information. She wrote, "It is also confusing for many professionals to read so many conflicting scholarly views of the value of multiculturalism. There are those, such as Ronald Takaki (1993), who asserted that America has been defined too narrowly."

"Diversity in his perspective is not a recent phenomenon. America as a concept and country has been diverse since its beginnings. Thus, Takaki maintains, we need to expand the definition of America by infusing into the curriculum the various ethnic groups that compose America. This information must be centered in a history that places them as actors, not merely victims (Takaki, 1993)."

Furthermore she added, "Other scholars are bothered by the notion that America is a tapestry whose history is woven together by many different but equally colorful threads. Arthur Schelesinger, Jr. (1996) is one scholar who is troubled by the implication that American history was formed equally by three cultures in convergence, European, African and Amerindian. He asserts that the formative American political ideas...are peculiarly European in origin (p.A-11)."

Recently, the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities sponsored an event called "World Café Forum: Cultural Diversity in the Northern Mariana Islands," at the Pacific Island Club. This event was held on Feb. 22 and was led by Ms. Eulalia Villagomez, NMICH program officer. Northern Marianas College students were invited to participate in the topic discussion on cultural diversity. "What does cultural diversity mean to you?" the participating students were asked. Followed by, "How does cultural diversity affect your life?" To encourage additional discussion on the topic, they were also asked, "Do you think our community is a salad bowl or a melting pot?" The NMC students were divided into groups, and then a facilitator was assigned in each group to lead the discussion. I was one of the six facilitators. The others were Maisie Tenorio, Viola Deleon Guerrero, Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne, M.D., Kyung Park, and Shelley Scott.

There were about 30 students and six facilitators. Each group of students was allowed to move from one facilitator to another after 15 minutes of discussing the topic. The mistress of event required each facilitator to report on the outcomes of the conversation with the students, and their observation after the allotted time.

Not surprisingly, students are well aware of the diversity of our island community. From the report that was given by each of the facilitators a colorful dialogue emerges. To the students, cultural diversity is a community made up of "people from different walks of life, different ethnic backgrounds, different nationalities, different religions, and different beliefs." Students' cultural diversity awareness seems to root from the fact that majority of the students are children of individuals that have a variety of national origins, including students who consider the Mariana

Islands their ancestral homeland.

The CNMI is culturally diverse as validated by the 2010 Census. For a population total of 53,883 we have about 17 different ethnic origins.

Students also maintain that diversity of people in the community affects their lives in many ways. Learning the cultural ways of others allow the student to be more accepting of peculiar practices that are very different from their own. Differences of opinion and voicing out one's opinion is highly encouraged in the mainstream American culture regardless of age but in some Asian culture this practice is not mainstream. Keeping eye contact in casual conversation is a standard of good manners for Western and Asian cultures but, interestingly for some Pacific culture, eye contact is discouraged. A student also pointed out an effect of diversity, wherein the blending of cultures results in "losing some of our own cultural attributes but at the same time gaining new ones in the process." Some students affirmed that the CNMI community is a melting pot of cultures, though other students also confirm that our diversity is similar to a salad bowl. Each individual culture is distinct yet a part of the mixture of different ethnic ingredients tossed together like in a salad bowl. Another student expressed a similar sentiment. She said, "At the college campus, students usually hang out with people with the same ethnicity. Outside of the classroom students group themselves according to their national origins regardless of what their activities are. But in the classroom that sense of cultural differences is not there."

I took note of a comment made by one of the students from one of the groups that I was in, when the discussion shifted toward preservation of the indigenous language. He said: "Why bother to preserve indigenous language when the Chamorro language will eventually disappear?" He said that he once surveyed Chamorros in Guam on the use of their native tongue. He found out that majority of those who identified themselves as Chamorros don't speak or have no idea how to speak their own vernacular. He spoke this in a normal tone with no malice or vindictiveness. I had no immediate response. But I would like to point out that in the CNMI this is not true. Chamorros and Carolinians in the CNMI continue to speak

in the vernacular, practice traditional beliefs in healing, follow old-fashioned social mores, traditional cooking, and other culturally related day-to-day activities.

Still, the students were in full agreement that a unifying language is needed for communication, and understanding in a multicultural community. Also, one has to be "open minded" to accept cultural differences. Knowing and respecting different cultural traits allow individuals or groups of individuals to be more inclusive rather than exclusive. Although the students are consciously aware of our diversity, more cultural diversity activities to foster community awareness were suggested by the students as well.

For me, cultural diversity in the Northern Marianas is visibly apparent in how we prepare and serve food in our parties. Our fiesta-like buffets accommodate and give space for exotic, delectable, and succulent cuisines from a variety of cultural influences. This is also true for our islands' hotel restaurants, which serve a taste of the Marianas diversity every time they cater to our visitors in the buffet line.

I think that all of us, individually or in groups, have a culture. Regardless of where we came from, who our parents were, or if we have multiple backgrounds or ethnic origins that run in our veins, what really matters is who we choose or want to be. The beauty and the prevalence of the American culture is that it allows and accommodates individual identity while still being a part of a collective culture. According to scholarly studies, a person does not just assimilate into society, a person integrates to a society—maintaining one's own cultural identity (i.e., personal or group beliefs, traditions, language, etc.) and yet functioning in a broader culturally diverse society without altering or changing its fundamental identity or form.

I definitely missed out on some of the more interesting comments and discussion as reported by the other facilitators. "The World Café Forum: Cultural Diversity in the Marianas" was quite an interesting and informational experience for me. I look forward to another cultural enlightenment activity similar to this.

Bryan Manabat
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Reply to Michael Geisinger

Michael, if you read my letter carefully, I mentioned Brian Kendall as one of many who attended the honk rallies on Beach Road. That was the extent of it. For you to infer that I am in solidarity with his tirade against Demapan and Joyner, you are mistaken. I did not, and do not support that kind of outburst.

I cannot say that I know Brian Kendall well. I met him at honk rallies, along with many others. Apart from holding signs at the roadside, most of us prayed. Our prayers were answered. Grace happens.

But what you may not know about Brian is that he is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, is a member of France's Legion d'Honneur - Grand Croix, and is the only person to receive two Purple Hearts—for exceptional bravery in the face of enemy fire.

Brian was instrumental in negotiating the release of Nelson Mandela from Pollsmore prison, in South Africa, in 1990, after an emotional tirade with President Botha. Botha said that he would release Mandela if Kendall would only "shut up." It worked.

It was Brian Kendall who urged Mother Teresa to, "Work with the poor, the sick, and the children of India." She took his advice. He confided to me that she later shared her recipe for pie crust with him.

You may have seen the TV program where Brian Kendall won "American Idol" by singing *Nessun Dorma* from the opera *Turandot*. There wasn't a dry eye in the house, and he got a standing ovation. Simon Cowell later said, "Whew! I don't know what I was expecting, but this was fantastic." Brian later repeated his triumph at La Scala, in Milan, Italy. They love him over there.

Brian regularly briefs David Rockefeller, members of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderberg Group, the NSA, the DOD, the DIA, Hillary Clinton, President Obama, and John Kerry. He is the First Secretary at the Harvard International Relations Council, and is a consultant to many think tanks, including the Ford Foundation and the Aspen Institute.

Brian Kendall was also short-listed to win the Nobel Peace Prize, but was edged out by Barack Obama at the last minute. Afterwards, Brian apparently gave the Nobel Committee an earful, but I wasn't there.

Satirically yours,

Russ Mason
Oleai, Saipan

NORTHERN

From Page 10

for them while in training and also finds jobs for them after they have mastered a trade skill. NMTI has also trained several government retirees in new skills and helped them find jobs in a second career. Especially now with the Retirement Fund about to collapse, the institute can be an asset in training the retirees for other job opportunities. Even returning military personnel can attend. Anyone from age 16 to whatever age is welcome to come and learn to help themselves.

With proper funding from the CW1 money, NMTI wishes to extend the vocational training to Tinian and Rota. These islands need skilled local workers also. We must use this CWI for its intended purpose—to train our local citizens for skilled trades to work in our community.

I am imploring and begging the Legislature and the new governor to appropriate the vetoed \$500,000 to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute again. I am also pleading with our local businesses to assist

the institute. You will greatly profit from better trained employees.

The institute has proven itself over the past four years. Many of your children have attended the institute. You also have been present at the graduation ceremonies and seen that the institute has been serious in its objective of training local citizens in trades.

Please do not let the institute shut its doors. Our people will fall into a deeper depression. We must reach out and motivate and help them to regain their dignity and pride. A nation's strength lies in its skilled and motivated workers. Let us stop being dependent on food stamps and other pride-robbing handouts.

Some of the courses being offered are electricity, plumbing, carpentry, sewing, cooking, auto repair, painting, hotel hospitality, welding, masonry, and heavy equipment operation. Any additional course will be added if requested. We stress hands-on learning as opposed to theory.

Please consider helping the institute to train our local labor force. When a local employee is hired in a job requiring a trades skill, the community benefits as well. NMTI is vital to the welfare and growth of our community.

If the CNMI is to be ready for total labor federalization by Dec.

31, 2014, with your assistance the Northern Marianas Trades Institute will have produced workers that will make us all proud. We cannot grow or become prosperous unless our own people are doing the work needed. Let us employ nonresident workers only when our supply of local trained employees runs out.

Recall in 2000 when the garment industry was told that by 2005, few, if any, garment factories would remain on Saipan. True to their word, today all garment factories are history. Where will we be in 2014 without a trained local labor force? Where will we be in 2014, without our construction workers and skilled men/women?






The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is the main institution ready to train our local citizens in all trades and help restore our prosperity by giving workers pride and money for their skilled labor. Is there a better way? Our local citizens are our diamonds under our feet. Let us help polish them.

Again, I am pleading to the Legislature, the governor, and private industry to help fund the Northern Marianas Trades Institute—our main hope for a local trained work force. The future lies in our hands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

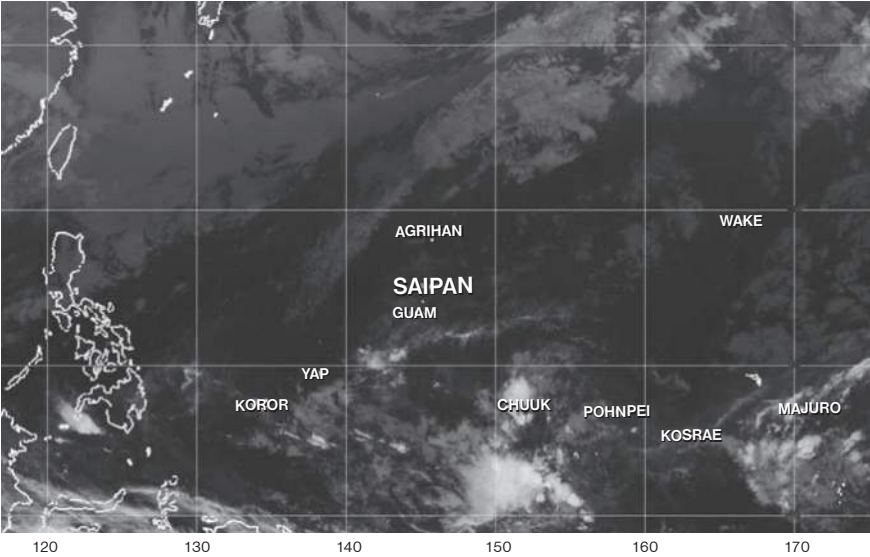
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 32
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 60
Miami	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 53
New York	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 30
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 39
Paris	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 32
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 36
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 39
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 45
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 38
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 32

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves west-southwestward from near Iwo To island at 25N142E to beyond 130E at 22N. Cloudiness and widespread rain are seen along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough heads southeastward from Mindanao through 8N130E and a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N144E to end at EQ151E. Widely scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror and Yap within 130 miles of a line from 7N130E to 1N145E and also north of the trough or south of Guam between 7N and 11N from 142E to 145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the eastern end of the trough to the south of a line from 3N148E to 2N156E. A surface trough runs northward from 1N156E to 13N156E. Scattered showers are present just east of Chuuk between 6N and 9N from 152E to 156E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between the equator and 6N from 168E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:08 AM
Tuesday	12:26 AM
Wednesday	1:25 AM
Thursday	2:21 AM
Friday	3:15 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NMC Nursing Club Health Fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club Health Fair practice life-saving, Citizen CPR techniques taught by the American Red Cross on Feb. 23, 2013, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hardt Eye Clinic staff provide screenings for blood glucose levels to fair participants with the assistance of NMC Nursing student Honey Jane Ebu.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elly Stoilova and Amy Sletten, front, pose with their dedicated Zumba enthusiasts after an energetic Zumba session.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amy Sletten leads motivated participants in a free Zumba session inside the Multi-Purpose Center during the NMC Nursing Club Health Fair on Feb. 23, 2013.



▲ Participants warm up before taking part in a Charry De Guzman and Allen Cuyugan's free Zumba session during the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club Health Fair on Feb. 23, 2013 at the Multi-Purpose Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◀ Northern Marianas College Nursing Club member Cherry Cope gives a flu shot to a Health Fair participant at the Multi-Purpose Center on Feb. 23, 2013.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Northern Marianas College Nursing students, from left, Jan Alcantara, Angela Prado, and Brittany Concepcion take time off from the fair to focus on their health during one of the three free exercise sessions offered at the recent Health Fair.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

Consequence to cuts no one thought would happen

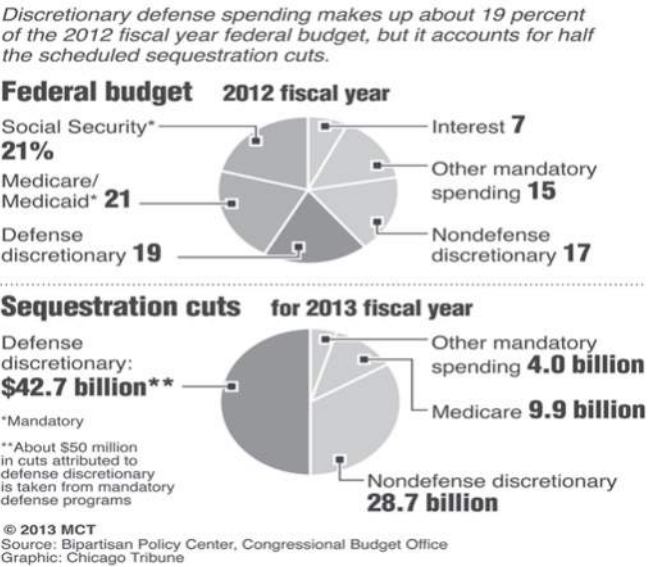
WASHINGTON (AP)—It’s not the first time that government economic engineering has produced a time bomb with a short fuse.

Back in 2011, few lawmakers, if any, thought deep and indiscriminate spending cuts, totaling about \$85 billion and now starting to kick in, were a smart idea.

The across-the-board cuts, set up as a last-resort trigger and based on a mechanism used in the 1980s, are a reality largely because President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, failed to find a way to stop them.

Republicans, influenced by tea party and other conservative

Where cuts come from



factions, insisted on just spending cuts to narrow the deficit. Tax increases were out.

Obama and the Democratic-run Senate didn’t budge from a mix of cuts and increased tax revenues.

“Arbitrary” and “stupid” Obama called the auto-pilot cuts, known as sequester.

But history shows a long trail of unintended consequences from government actions—or inaction:

■ President Franklin D. Roosevelt, after a solid re-election victory in 1936, believed that the Great Depression was wind-

ing down. Unemployment was declining and economic activity was coming back.

Roosevelt and Congress believed it was time to cut free-flowing government spending and raise taxes. The Federal Reserve tightened its financial reins. But the fragile economy couldn’t withstand the blows. The Depression roared back, lasting until the 1940s when U.S. involvement in World War II finally revived the economy.

■ President Ronald Reagan’s ambitious 1986 overhaul of the tax code simplified taxes and closed many loopholes, includ-

ing repealing the popular tax deduction for credit-card interest. Then people started borrowing heavily against fast-rising equity in their homes; that interest still was deductible.

But the practice eventually helped put millions of homeowners under water on their mortgages when the housing bubble burst, contributing to the 2007-2009 recession.

■ The Fed has kept short-term interest rates unusually low and printed money to keep downward pressure on longer-term rates, easing borrowing for businesses and individuals.

US auto sales power ahead in February

DETROIT (AP)—Americans want new cars and trucks, and they’re not letting higher gas prices or political dysfunction stand in their way.

New car and truck sales were up 4 percent in February as rising home construction and cheap financing kept the U.S. auto recovery on track. While the pace of growth is slowing, industry analysts expect more gains in the coming months, saying there’s little that could derail demand for new cars.

Car buyers have already shrugged off higher Social Se-


curity taxes, which cut their take-home pay starting in January. Gas prices—which rose 36 cents to \$3.78 per gallon in February—didn’t change their habits, either. And they ignored the debate over automatic spending cuts that were due to take effect Friday.

“Quite frankly, we think most of America is getting a little tired of hearing about some of the dysfunction,” said Kurt McNeil, General Motors Co.’s U.S. sales chief. “We think the fundamentals are strong and that’s what’s important, and that’s

what’s driving the economy.”

February sales hit an annualized rate of 15.4 million cars and trucks. That’s still short of the recent peak of close to 17 million in 2005, but it’s quite healthy compared with the anemic 10.4 million recorded during the recession in 2009.

The industry isn’t likely to see the double-digit monthly gains it saw last year, when Japanese automakers came roaring back after the 2011 earthquake in Japan. Instead, auto companies are settling in for a period of slower but sustained growth.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement (Revised February 6, 2013)

JVA No. 13-006

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Deputy Executive Director

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.
- A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
- Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$70,000.00 to \$130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA


*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.


- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.






Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION



The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for , American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation*”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Nation

Rescuers end effort to find body in Fla. sinkhole

SEFFNER, Fla. (AP)—The effort to find the body of a Florida man who was swallowed by a sinkhole under his Florida home was called off Saturday and crews planned to begin demolishing the four-bedroom house.

The 20-foot-wide opening of the sinkhole is almost completely covered by the house and rescuers feared it would collapse on them if they tried to search for Jeff Bush, 37. Crews were testing the unstable ground surrounding the home and evacuated two neighboring homes as a precaution.

Hillsborough County Administrator Mike Merrill said heavy equipment would be



AP
An engineer surveys in front of a home where sinkhole opened up on Friday, March 1, 2013, in Seffner, Fla. A man screamed for help and disappeared as a large sinkhole opened under the bedroom of the house, his brother said Friday.

brought in to begin the demolition Sunday morning.

“At this point it’s really not possible to recover the body,” Merrill said, later adding “we’re dealing with a very unusual sinkhole.”

Jessica Damico, spokeswoman for Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, said the demolition equipment would be placed on what they believe is solid ground and reach onto the property to pull apart the house. The crew will try pulling part of the house away from the sinkhole intact so some heirlooms and mementoes can be retrieved.

Bush was in his bedroom Thursday night in Seffner—a

suburb of 8,000 people 15 miles east of downtown Tampa—when the earth opened and took him and everything else in his room. Five others in the house escape unharmed.

On Saturday, the normally quiet neighborhood of concrete block homes painted in Florida pastels was jammed with cars as engineers, reporters, and curious onlookers came to the scene.

Rove: GOP needs candidates who reflect diversity

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—GOP strategist Karl Rove said Saturday that rebuilding the Republican brand in California will be a tough task that will require them to diversify and create a strategy to spread their message to a wider audience.

Referring to the state party’s deep losses in recent years, Rove said it needs to focus on larger themes of restoring jobs and reducing government spending.

He also said the party must recruit candidates who reflect the diversity of the country, and in particular, California. By next year, Hispanics will overtake whites as the state’s largest demographic group.

“We need to be asking for votes in the most powerful way possible, which is to have people asking for the vote who are comfortable and

look like and sound like the people that we’re asking for the vote from,” Rove said.

His message to delegates, activists and local party officials throughout California was in line with the philosophy behind his new political action committee, the Conservative Victory Project. The committee was established to support Republican candidates it deems electable, offsetting GOP candidates who might offend key parts of the electorate.

Rove told activists at the Republican Party’s spring convention in Sacramento that rebuilding would be “a big task,” but noted Texas as an example. Once a Democratic stronghold, the state elected Republicans to 95 of 150 state House seats in November. Democrats have not won a statewide office in Texas since 1994.

McConnell takes on group for criticizing wife

WINCHESTER, Ky. (AP)—Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell lambasted a liberal group on Saturday for criticizing the Asian heritage of his wife, former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, calling its Twitter messages “racial slurs” and “the ultimate outrage.”

“They will not get away with attacking my wife in this campaign,” McConnell told about 100 home-state supporters at a Republican dinner in

Winchester.

“This woman has the ear of (at)McConnellPress—she’s his (hash)wife,” the group Progress Kentucky tweeted on Feb. 14. “May explain why your job moved to (hash)China!”

McConnell forcefully defended Chao, who was born in Taiwan and who moved to the U.S. as an 8-year-old with her

family aboard a freight ship.


“Elaine Chao is just as much an American as any of the rest of them,” McConnell said. “In fact, she had to go through a lot more to become an American.”

McConnell’s aides had already criticized the tweets. “Secretary Chao and her family are shining examples



McConnell

of the American dream: salt-of-the-earth folks who escaped oppression, came here with nothing, joined our great melting pot, worked exceptionally hard to build a thriving business, and then dedicated so much of their lives to giving back,” said Jesse Benton, manager of McConnell’s re-election campaign. “It is unconscionable that anyone would use blatant race-baiting for political gain.”



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 13-003

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Associate Engineer

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Position reports directly to CUC's Chief Engineer or his/her designee in the Engineering Section of the Water and Wastewater Divisions. This is a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SCO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is also known as the Drinking Water and Wastewater Associate Engineer ("AE"). Examples of duties:

- Coordinate and meet with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervise engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Review work performed by engineering technicians.
- Perform project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and letters, recommendations; develop scopes of work; provide technical reviews; surveying for projects; schedule project elements; evaluate proposals; monitor project progress and project funds; and, recommend selection of projects.
- Prepare engineering calculations, plans and specifications; design water and wastewater facilities and other utility related facilities; collect data and perform research.
- Troubleshoot systems and equipment.
- Manage construction and perform contract management activities including evaluating bids, correspondence with contractors and contracting officer, reviewing submittals, interpreting drawings and technical specifications, responding to contractor inquiries, evaluating work for compliance with contract provisions, processing payment requests, inspecting construction and other related tasks.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Associate Engineer must have the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering, (or Mechanical Engineering if 5 years work experience in design and management of water and sewer facilities can be proven). Experience of eight (8) or more years of work as an engineer, and a minimum of five (5) years work experience in water and sewer related projects. Must demonstrate competency in overseeing drinking water systems and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and in maintenance of water and wastewater system components.
- Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction methods and techniques; Engineering principles and practices.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and pertinent software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATION:

- Professional Engineer's license in Civil, Environmental (or Mechanical) fields from the CNMI, Guam, the District of Columbia, or any state of the U.S.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA


*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(Revised 2-15-13)

JVA No. 13-016

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

**DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR
WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED**

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for: Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vector trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS: Two (2).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Asia

China's Xi rides high hopes ahead of presidency

LUOTUOWAN VILLAGE, China (AP)—China's fawning state media, jaded social media commentators and even poor corn and cabbage farmers agree: new Communist Party chief Xi Jinping is off to a good start.

"General Secretary Xi doesn't put on any airs. He talks like an ordinary person," said 69-year-old farmer Tang Rongbin. The new leader visited Tang's sparse, dimly lit farmhouse in Luotuowan village in December, bearing gifts of cooking oil, flour and a blanket.

Xi has styled himself as an economic reformer, an iron-fisted graft-buster, a staunch nationalist and a no-frills man-of-the-people—spurring expectations for change. But as he prepares to be appointed to the largely ceremonial role of president, pressure will be growing on him to deliver.

China faces rising public anger over endemic corruption, a burgeoning rich-poor gap and the degradation of the country's air, soil and waterways. Slower economic growth and territorial disputes, especially with Japan, add to the tension.

Mounting protests over environmental issues, land seizures and high-handed officialdom point to the underlying social

discontent. Days before the party conclave that brought Xi to power last year, thousands of protesters in the eastern city of Ningbo faced off against riot police outside government offices, calling on officials to halt a chemical plant expansion.

"I think there has been a revolution of rising expectations," said Willy Lam, an expert on party politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "People realize they can get away with even demonstrations to make their will heard."

Joining the clamor for change this past week were dozens of prominent intellectuals who signed a petition urging the government to ratify an international treaty on protecting human rights and the rule of law. Also, a group of about 100 parents of gays and lesbians urged lawmakers to legalize gay marriage.

The annual session of the national legislature, which opens Tuesday, will complete the once-a-decade handover of power that began in November when Xi and his leadership team assumed the top positions in the Communist Party. At the end of the session, Xi will take the title of president from his predecessor as party

leader, Hu Jintao.

Deputies to the National People's Congress will rubber-stamp appointments of senior officials to the State Council, or Cabinet, to run economic and foreign policies; Xi and other party leaders finalized the personnel changes at a closed-door meeting last week. The No. 2 party leader, Li Keqiang, will become premier, the country's top economic official.

The legislature gives the Xi administration a high-profile platform to lay out policies to build the prosperous, strong and fairer society he has talked about in his public appearances.

Xi came to power in the wake of a scandal that exposed infighting and corruption in the highest reaches of the party. Exuding a confidence and ease lacking in the remote, wooden Hu, Xi has seized on the public's disgust over graft and its hopes for national greatness to rally support for his leadership.

"He certainly took challenges and made them opportunities," said Cheng Li, an expert on Chinese politics at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "He turned them around into great expectations for him, and great hope."

5 police, 2 assailants killed amid Malaysian siege

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—At least seven people have been killed in a shootout between police and suspected Filipino intruders on Borneo island, Malaysia's police chief said Sunday.

The shooting Saturday night occurred 150 kilometers (90 miles) from another district in eastern Sabah state where 14 people were killed earlier after members of a Philippine Muslim royal clan occupied a village last month to claim the territory as their own.

National Police Chief Ismail Omar said that five policemen were killed in the ambush by unidentified gunmen in the coastal town of Semporna. Two of the attackers were killed, he said.

Malaysia's biggest security crisis in recent years began when about 200 Filipinos landed in Lahad Datu on Feb. 9, saying ownership documents from the

late 1800s proved the territory was theirs. They rejected repeated calls from both the Malaysian and Philippine governments for them to leave Sabah, a short boat ride from the restive provinces in the southern Philippines.

On Friday, Malaysian authorities clashed with the clan members, leaving 12 Filipinos and two Malaysian police commandos dead.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Saturday that the government would offer "no compromise—either they surrender or face the consequences if they refuse."

Police dropped leaflets by helicopter over the occupied village Saturday telling the Filipinos to give up, while the navy bolstered patrols in waters between Malaysia and the Philippines.

The Filipino group is led by a brother of Sultan Jamalul Kiram

III of the southern Philippine province of Sulu.

The standoff elevated the Sabah territorial issue, a thorn in Philippine-Malaysian relations for decades, to a national security concern for both countries.

In Manila, Jamalul Kiram III told reporters that he was worried the violence in Sabah might spread because many Filipinos, especially followers of his sultanate in the southern Philippine, are upset by the killing of their compatriots in Lahad Datu.

His daughter, Jacel, who is a sultanate princess, called on Filipinos to stay calm but stressed the sultanate would never back down from its struggle to reclaim Sabah.

"This concerns honor above life," she told reporters. "We will not retreat just like that, because we're fighting for something and our struggle is our right and the truth."

district as saying that three men died in the clashes on Sunday. Hossain said the latest violence erupted after the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami attacked police outposts and a ruling Awami League office.

China volunteers rescue 900 dogs in cramped truck

BEIJING (AP)—The head of an animal rescue center in China said Sunday that volunteers have

rescued about 900 dogs that were being transported in poor conditions in a truck. Chen Mingcai of the Chongqing Small Animal Protection Association said that a travelling citizen became suspicious of the truck and called police, who detained the truck driver on Friday night. Chen said he was later contacted by a netizen who had seen a photo of the dogs left in the truck on the entrance of an expressway in southwestern Chongqing city.

World

Benedict's resignation: hints were there all along

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Benedict XVI stunned the world when he announced Feb. 11 he would resign as pope. But in retrospect, all the signs were there, and they even accelerated in recent months. Here's a look at the hints Benedict dropped starting in 2005, his first year as pope, indicating that unlike his predecessors over 600 years, his papacy would end in retirement, not death.

■ In his first encyclical "God is Love"—published eight months after he was elected—Benedict wrote about service: "It is God who governs the world, not we. We offer him our service only to the extent that we can, and for as long as he grants us the strength."

■ In 2009, Benedict prayed at the tomb of Celestine V, the hermit pope who stepped down after five months as pope in 1294, simply too overwhelmed by the job. Benedict also placed on the tomb the pallium, or wool stole, that he received during his 2005 installation Mass as pope—a powerful symbol and a tip-off that he would follow Celestine's footsteps.

■ Five years after his first encyclical, in the 2010 book "Light of the World," Benedict made his views about the limits of strength more explicit, and personal. "If a



Pope Benedict XVI greets pilgrims at the end of his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right, and under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

■ In March 2012, according to the Vatican newspaper, he decided to resign after an exhausting trip to Mexico and Cuba. He told only a handful of people and the only visible sign for those in the know would come seven months later when renovations began on the monastery in the Vatican gardens where he will live.

■ In June, the Vatican appointed Fox News correspondent Greg Burke as a senior media adviser in the secretariat of state, perhaps anticipating the crush of

media interest in all things Vatican. Burke has become a much sought-after television commentator in recent weeks.

■ In November, Benedict created six new cardinals—not a single one from Italy or Europe—making a very international final mark on the club that would elect his successor.

■ In December, he received the final report of the commission of cardinals investigating the leaks of his personal papers and he pardoned the butler who stole them, closing a chapter on an embarrassing and damaging scandal so that his successor wouldn't have to deal with it. He has, however, left it for the new pope to decide what to do with the report.

Syria, Iran say Assad to remain in power till 2014

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Iran and Syria condemned a U.S. plan to assist rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad on Saturday and signaled the Syrian leader intends to stay in power at least until 2014 presidential elections.

The remarks came against the backdrop of a strategic victory for the regime as the military regained control over a string of villages along a key highway to open a potential supply route in Syria's

heavily contested north.

The army command boasted of the achievement in a statement, saying it had eradicated the remnants of "terrorist agents and mercenaries" in the area that links the government-controlled central city of Hama with Aleppo's international airport.

The reversal of gains, confirmed by Syrian activists, has the potential to change the outcome of the battle in Aleppo, Syria's largest city

where government troops and rebels have been locked in a stalemate for months.

Syrian rebels have long complained that they are hampered by the world's failure to provide heavier arms to help them battle Assad's better-equipped military. The international community is reluctant to send weapons partly because of fears they may fall into the hands of extremists who have been gaining influence among the rebels.

WORLD BRIEFS

Head of Chadian army claims troops kill Belmoktar

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—Chad's military chief announced late Saturday that his troops deployed in northern Mali had killed Moktar Belmoktar, the terrorist who orchestrated the attack on a natural gas plant in Algeria that left 36 foreigners dead. The French military, which is leading the offensive against al-Qaida-linked rebels in Mali, said they could not immediately confirm the information. Local officials in Kidal, the northern town that is being used as the base for the military operation, cast doubt on the assertion, saying Chadian officials are attempting to score a PR victory to make up for the significant losses they have suffered in recent days.

Venezuela says Chavez receiving chemotherapy

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez has been receiving chemotherapy since recovering from a severe respiratory infection in mid-January and "continues his battle for life," his vice president said late Friday. Vice President Nicolas Maduro suggested the chemotherapy was continuing in the government's first mention of it as among treatments that Venezuela's cancer-stricken president has received since his Dec. 11 cancer surgery in Cuba. Maduro made the disclosure after a Mass for Chavez in a new chapel outside the military hospital where authorities say the socialist leader has been since being flown back to Caracas on Feb. 18.

Kerry: Divided Egypt needs political compromise

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's bickering government and opposition need to overcome their differences to create "a sense of political and economic viability" if the country is to thrive as a democracy, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Saturday. He urged them to compromise for the good of the country. In meetings with Egypt's foreign minister and opposition politicians, some of whom plan to boycott upcoming parliamentary elections, Kerry said an agreement on economic reforms to seal a \$4.8 billion International Monetary Fund loan package was critical. Closing the IMF deal also will unlock significant U.S. assistance promised by President Barack Obama last year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Army sent to north Bangladesh to tackle violence

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Soldiers have been deployed in a northern Bangladeshi district after activists of the country's largest Islamic party clashed with police, leaving three people dead during a nationwide general strike called to denounce an ongoing war crimes trial. The Daily Star newspaper quoted police official Mokbul Hossain in Bogra

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—Rarely does a week go by without news of another hacking incident, whether it's Chinese hackers accused of breaking in to The New York Times' computer systems or Burger King finding its Twitter account taken over by pranksters.

Security threats aren't new and have long been part of online life. But the increased attention on them makes now a good time to review ways you can protect yourself. If nothing here feels new, that's good, as it means you've been doing the things you need to do to keep your accounts safe from hackers. Although there's no way to completely eliminate threats, minimizing them will go a long way.

One of the best things you can do is to make sure your password is strong.

If someone's able to guess the password to your email or Facebook account, that person can post or send embarrassing things on your behalf. Someone was able to access Burger King's Twitter account recently and changed its profile picture to a McDonald's logo. If a banking or Amazon account is involved, someone could pay bills or buy iPads under your name—with your money.

What's worse, getting a password to one account is often a stepping stone to a more serious breach. Someone can use your email or Facebook account to send spam and scam messages to your friends, for instance. And because many services let you reset your password by sending an email to your address on file, someone with access to your email account can reset passwords and gain access to all sorts of things. If the compromised password is one you use for work, someone can snoop around for files on your employer's network with trade secrets or customers' credit card numbers.

Here are ways you can keep your password strong to ward off that initial intrusion:

- **Make your password long.** The recommended minimum is eight characters, but 14 is better and 25 is even better than that. Some services have character limits on passwords, though.

- **Use combinations of letters and numbers, upper and lower case and symbols such as the exclamation mark.** Some services won't let you do all of that, but try to vary it as much as you can. "Pa\$5WoRd!43" is far better than "password43."

- **Avoid words that are in dictionaries, even if you add numbers and symbols.** There are programs that can crack passwords by going through databases of known words. One trick is to add numbers in the middle of a word—as in "pa5123sw0r456d" instead of "password123456." Another is to think of a sentence and use just the first letter of each word—as in "tqbftotld" for "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog."

- **Substitute characters.** For instance, use the number zero instead of the letter O, or replace the S with a dollar sign.

- **Avoid easy-to-guess words, even if they aren't in the dictionary.** You shouldn't use your name, company name or hometown, for instance. Avoid pets and relatives' names, too. Likewise, avoid things that can be looked up, such as your birthday or ZIP code. But you might use that as part

Strong passwords and other security tips



This photo illustration shows hands typing on a computer keyboard on Wednesday Feb. 27, 2013.

of a complex password. Try reversing your ZIP code or phone number and insert that into a string of letters. As a reminder, you should also avoid "password" as the password, or consecutive keys on the keyboard, such as "1234" or "qwerty."

- **Never reuse passwords on other accounts—with two exceptions.** Over the years, I've managed to create hundreds of accounts. Many are for one-time use, such as when a newspaper website requires me to register to read the full story. It's OK to use simple passwords and repeat them in those types of situations, as long as the password isn't unlocking features that involve credit cards or posting on a message board. That will let you focus on keeping passwords to the more essential accounts strong.

- **The other exception is to log in using a centralized sign-on service** such as Facebook Connect. Hulu, for instance, gives you the option of using your Facebook username and password instead of creating a separate one for the video site. This technically isn't reusing your password, but a matter of Hulu borrowing the log-in system Facebook already has in place. The account information isn't stored with Hulu. Facebook merely tells Hulu's computers that it's you. Of course, if you do this, it's even more important to keep your Facebook password secure.

- **How do you keep track of these passwords?** There are programs you can buy, if you're willing to put your trust in them. I use an Excel spreadsheet, but I encrypt it with its own password—a rather complex one. I am well aware that if the file gets compromised,

all my services go with it. In fact, I once had it on a USB drive, which I had in a backpack that got stolen. I had to spend several hours changing passwords on all my accounts, just in case someone managed to break the password to that file. As a precaution, don't name that file "passwords." Name it something generic and boring.

- **Ideally you'll have a system for creating and remembering passwords without needing the spreadsheet.** For example, you might have a string that's constant, such as "t7q1b9f-8j2o0t0l1d!" (the acronym for "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" with my area code and ZIP code reversed and a few special characters put in). To vary it, you could add the first two letters of the website you are using to the front and the next four to the end. Or put the consonants in front and the vowels at the end, with every other letter capitalized and the letter O replaced with the number zero. So for Amazon, it would be "mZn?t7q1b9f8j2o0t0l1d!Aa0." Just try to guess that!

Of course, I'm not smart enough to have a system like that for myself.

Whatever system you adopt, it's good to change your password—and system—from time to time. And if there's reason to believe your password might have been compromised, change it immediately.

One other thing to be aware of: Many sites let you reset your password by answering a security question, such as the name of your pet or the name of your high school. Of course, these violate good password practices by requiring

you to use something that can be easily looked up. Others ask for your favorite movie or hobby. That might not be easily looked up, but your tastes change over time. Furthermore, because these questions get repeated from site to site, the answers you use violate the rule against repeating passwords.

I try to make these answers complex just like passwords, by adding numbers and special characters and making up responses. Unfortunately, some sites won't let you do that, and you'll be stopped if you try to enter a numeral when asked for a city name, for instance. These services will often send an email when a password gets reset this way, so be sure the address on file is current. Change your password and security questions immediately if you're notified of a reset you didn't initiate. You might want to contact the service as well.

While you're at it, make your username complex, too, if you're allowed to choose one. Banking sites typically do.

Some services such as Gmail even give you the option of using two passwords when you use a particular computer or device for the first time. If you have that feature turned on, the service will send a text message with a six-digit code to your phone when you try to use Gmail from an unrecognized device. You'd need to enter that for access, and then that code expires. It's optional, and it's a pain—but it could save you from grief later on. Hackers wouldn't be able to access the account without possessing your phone. Turn it on by going to the account's security settings.

Beyond passwords, here are a few

other things to help you stay safe:

- **Software flaws.** Many break-ins result from flaws in the software program you use, whether it's the Windows or Mac operating system, a Web browser or a video player. It's a good idea to let those programs automatically check for software updates, as those updates may contain fixes to known flaws. You can also check this government website to learn of the latest threats and fixes: <http://us-cert.gov>.

- **Malicious software.** Even if the software you're using is flawless, hackers may create a security opening by tricking you into installing a malicious program. That can happen if you click on a bad email attachment or link in your email. In rare cases, visiting a problematic website can cause the software to download. Should malicious software get on your computer, a hacker might be able to use the opening to look around for sensitive data, or record your keystrokes to capture your complex passwords. To minimize the threat, use caution when visiting unknown sites or opening mysterious email.

- **Security software.** Many companies sell anti-virus and other software to protect your computer from malicious software. There's a free one available at <http://www.avg.com>. Windows and Mac computers also come with firewalls to block some threats. Be sure it's turned on.

Think of these measures as layers of defense. If one gets breached, there's another to back you up. But eventually, the intruders will get through. Slow them down by making each layer as strong as possible.

Health & Fitness

Study: 5 mental disorders share genetic links

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The largest genetic study of mental illnesses to date finds five major disorders may not look much alike but they share some gene-based risks. The surprising discovery comes in the quest to unravel what causes psychiatric disorders and how to better diagnose and treat them.

The disorders—autism, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder or ADHD, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, and schizophrenia—are considered distinct problems. But findings published online Wednesday suggest they're related in some way.

"These disorders that we thought of as quite different may not have such sharp boundaries," said Dr. Jordan Smoller of Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the lead researchers for the international study appearing in *The Lancet*.

That has implications for learning how to diagnose mental illnesses with the same precision that physical illnesses are diagnosed, said Dr. Bruce Cuthbert of the National Institute on Mental Health, which funded the research.

Consider: Just because someone has chest pain doesn't mean it's a heart attack; doctors have a variety of tests to find out. But there's no blood test for schizophrenia or other mental illnesses. Instead, doctors rely on symptoms agreed upon by experts. Learning the genetic underpinnings of mental illnesses is part of one day knowing if someone's symptoms really are schizophrenia and not something a bit different.

"If we really want to diagnose and treat people effectively, we have to get to these more fine-grained understandings of what's actually going wrong biologically," Cuthbert explained.

Added Mass General's

Smoller: "We are still in the early stages of understanding what are the causes of mental illnesses, so these are clues."

The Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, a collaboration of researchers in 19 countries, analyzed the genomes of more than 61,000 people, some with one of the five disorders and some without. They found four regions of the genetic code where variation was linked to all five disorders.

Of particular interest are disruptions in two specific genes that regulate the flow of calcium in brain cells, key to how neurons signal each other. That suggests that this change in a basic brain function could be one early pathway that leaves someone vulnerable to developing these disorders, depending on what else goes wrong.

For patients and their families, the research offers no immediate benefit. These disorders are thought to be caused

by a complex mix of numerous genes and other risk factors that range from exposures in the womb to the experiences of daily life.

"There may be many paths to each of these illnesses," Smoller cautioned.

But the study offers a lead in the hunt for psychiatric treatments, said NIMH's Cuthbert. Drugs that affect calcium channels in other parts of the body are used for such conditions as high blood pressure, and scientists could explore whether they'd be useful for psychiatric disorders as well.

The findings make sense, as there is some overlap in the symptoms of the different disorders, he said. People with schizophrenia can have some of the same social withdrawal that's so characteristic of autism, for example. Nor is it uncommon for people to be affected by more than one psychiatric disorder.

Healthy Living

Help for diabetics

Studies suggest that drinking tomato juice may lower the risk of heart attack and stroke for diabetics.

Fewer blot clots

• Platelet blood cells tended to stick together less in diabetics who drank tomato juice every day

• That cut the risk of dangerous blood clot formation

© 2013 MCT

Source: Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition, MCT Photo Service



WHO: Slight cancer risk after Japan nuke accident

LONDON (AP)—Two years after Japan's nuclear plant disaster, an international team of experts

said Thursday that residents of areas hit by the highest doses of radiation face an increased

cancer risk so small it probably won't be detectable.

In fact, experts calculated that

increase at about 1 extra percentage point added to a Japanese infant's lifetime cancer risk.

"The additional risk is quite small and will probably be hidden by the noise of other (cancer) risks like people's lifestyle choices and statistical fluctuations," said Richard Wakeford of the University of Manchester, one of the authors of the report. "It's more important not to start smoking than having been in Fukushima."

The report was issued by the World Health Organization, which asked scientists to study the health effects of the disaster in Fukushima, a rural farming region.

On March 11, 2011, an earthquake and tsunami knocked out the Fukushima plant's power and cooling systems, causing meltdowns in three reactors and spewing radiation into the surrounding air, soil and water. The most exposed populations

were directly under the plumes of radiation in the most affected communities in Fukushima, which is about 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Tokyo.

In the report, the highest increases in risk are for people exposed as babies to radiation in the most heavily affected areas. Normally in Japan, the lifetime risk of developing cancer of an organ is about 41 percent for men and 29 percent for women. The new report said that for infants in the most heavily exposed areas, the radiation from Fukushima would add about 1 percentage point to those numbers.

Experts had been particularly worried about a spike in thyroid cancer, since radioactive iodine released in nuclear accidents is absorbed by the thyroid, especially in children. After the Chernobyl disaster, about 6,000 children exposed to radiation later developed thyroid cancer because many drank contaminated milk after the accident.

In Japan, dairy radiation levels were closely monitored, but children are not big milk drinkers there.

The WHO report estimated that women exposed as infants to the most radiation after the Fukushima accident would have a 70 percent higher chance of getting thyroid cancer in their lifetimes. But thyroid cancer is extremely rare and one of the most treatable cancers when caught early. A woman's normal lifetime risk of developing it is about 0.75 percent. That number would rise by 0.5 under the calculated increase for women who got the highest radiation doses as infants.

Wakeford said the increase may be so small it will probably not be observable.

For people beyond the most directly affected areas of Fukushima, Wakeford said the projected cancer risk from the radiation dropped dramatically. "The risks to everyone else were just infinitesimal."

Study finds pregnancy nausea drug won't harm fetus

There's reassuring news for pregnant women miserable with morning sickness: A very large study in Denmark finds no evidence that using a popular anti-nausea drug will harm their babies.

One in 10 pregnant women has nausea and vomiting bad enough to need medicine but many forgo it out of fear of side effects. No drugs are currently approved for morning sickness in the United States although doctors are free to prescribe whatever they believe is best.

Zofran, sold by GlaxoSmith-Kline and in generic form for treating nausea from cancer treatments and other causes, has been the top choice. Yet women and

doctors have been leery of it because a small study previously suggested it might raise the risk of a birth defect—cleft palate.

The new study of more than 600,000 pregnancies in Denmark found no evidence of major birth-related problems, so women should not be afraid to use Zofran if they need it, said Dr. Iffath Hoskins, a high-risk pregnancy specialist at NYU Langone Medical Center and a spokeswoman for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

"It's effective and it's safe," she said. "Nobody is giving you a gold star for suffering through this."

Poor nutrition because of ex-

cessive vomiting can harm the woman and the fetus, she said.

Hoskins had no role in the study, which was led by Dr. Bjorn Pasternak of the State Serum Institute in Copenhagen. Results appear in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Researchers used nationwide health registries to compare rates of miscarriage, stillbirth, birth defects, preterm delivery and having a baby that weighed too little among women who used Zofran during pregnancy and others who did not. They also looked separately at use during the first trimester of pregnancy, when risks to the developing fetus are highest.

Personal Trainer

Stretching helps performance

Many active people neglect stretching exercises because they think — incorrectly — that flexibility does not help strength or coordination.

Muscle power

When a muscle contracts, the muscle opposing it has to relax

Quadriceps muscle puts out more power ...

... if the hamstring muscles can relax and elongate easily

Stretching makes muscles less tense and keeps them from resisting being stretched

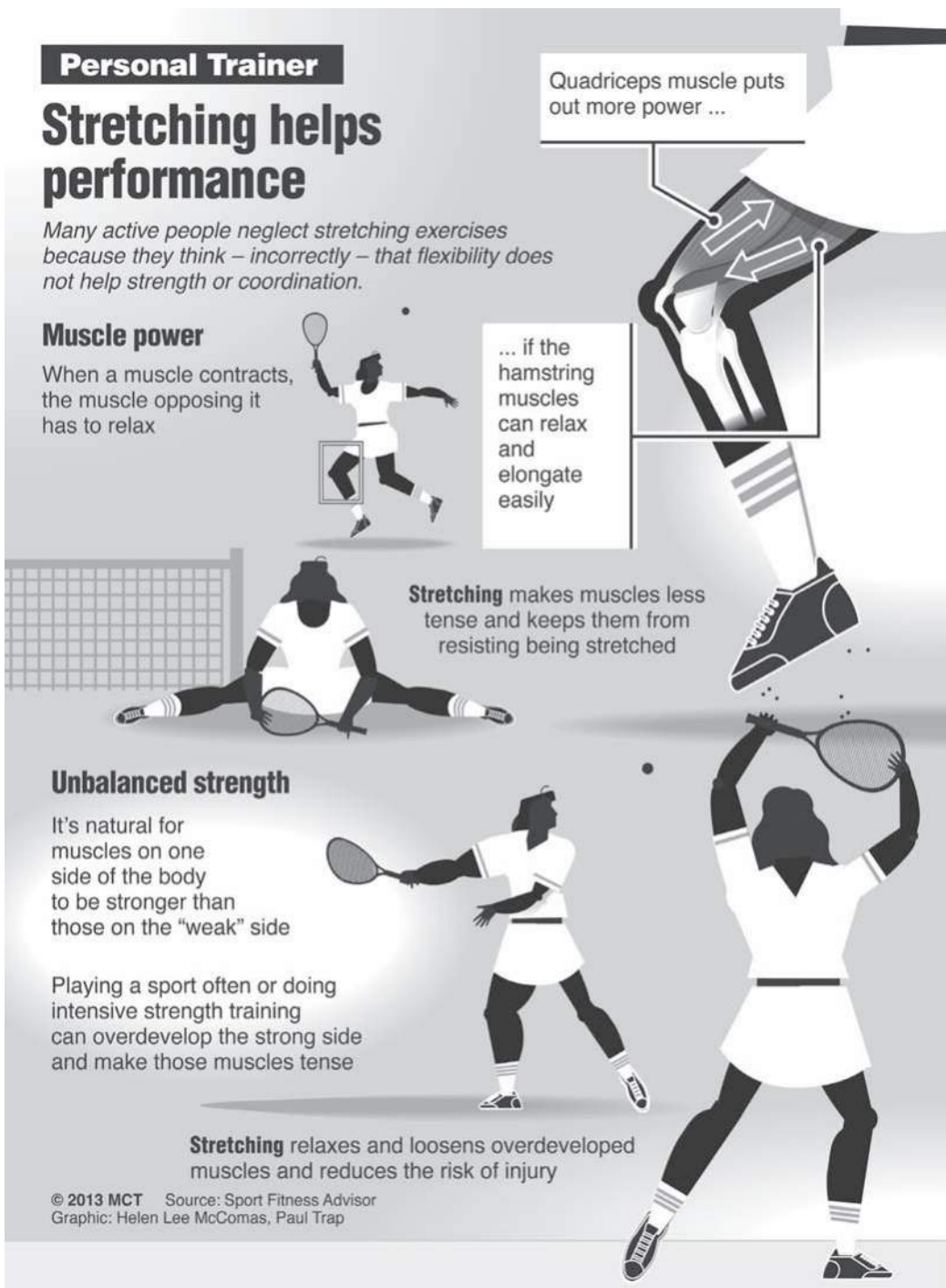
Unbalanced strength

It's natural for muscles on one side of the body to be stronger than those on the "weak" side

Playing a sport often or doing intensive strength training can overdevelop the strong side and make those muscles tense

Stretching relaxes and loosens overdeveloped muscles and reduces the risk of injury

© 2013 MCT Source: Sport Fitness Advisor Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap



Life & Style

'Jedi mind-meld': Obama flubs 'Star Trek' term



President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks to reporters in the White House briefing room in Washington, Friday, March 1, 2013, following a meeting with congressional leaders regarding the automatic spending cuts. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama couldn't bring two battling political parties together to forestall steep budget cuts Friday, but he did manage a feat of more cosmic proportions.

The president brought two universes together, and he did it by boldly going where no politician should ever go: confusing "Star Wars" and "Star Trek."

Obama's mixing of science-fiction metaphors crossed a final frontier, setting the nerdiest corners of the Internet ablaze.

The president was answering reporters' questions Friday in the White House briefing room, shortly after a last-minute meeting with the Democratic and Republican leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate. The meeting failed to ward off automatic budget cuts that will begin carving \$85 billion of government spending by day's end.

Obama rejected the idea of using burly Secret Service agents to keep lawmakers from leaving until everyone agreed on a budget.

"I am not a dictator. I'm the president," he said, explaining that he wouldn't do a "Jedi mind meld" with Congress' top two

Republicans to persuade them "to do what's right."

Jedis are from "Star Wars," while mind-melds happened on "Star Trek." Obama might as well have joined the Dark Side.

The reaction from Yoda-quoting nerds, Washington insiders and even Hollywood heroes was swift, as the presidential mishmash of sci-fi references went viral. Obama turned off geeks who had considered the president to be one of them with a slip of the tongue that was almost as bad as confusing Klingons and Ewoks, or even Democrats and Republicans.

Even Mister Spock of "Star Trek" weighed in.

"Only a Vulcan mind meld would be effective on this Congress. LLAP," Leonard Nimoy emailed after The Associated Press sought his reaction. Nimoy signed off with the abbreviation for his "Live long and prosper."

As for the situation that led Obama to the briefing room in the first place, the president tried to downplay the epic battle that has gripped Washington, saying it was no "apocalypse."

He could have mentioned the kinds of deals that Republicans and Democrats were able to reach in the past, when Washington was a less partisan place.

But that was a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

Judge admonishes lawyer, won't delay Lohan case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge refused Friday to delay Lindsay Lohan's trial on reckless driving and other charges and admonished her attorney, saying the lawyer needs help on the case.

Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney advised New York lawyer Mark Heller that his pleadings weren't appropriate under California law.

Heller was told to get assistance from another attorney or Lohan would be required to attend hearings to gauge his ability to represent her.

The actress wasn't obligated to attend Friday's hearing. Heller said after the hearing that while his motions didn't conform to California law, he was simply trying to protect Lohan's rights and would continue to do so.

Dabney also said there was no good reason to delay the March 18 trial, noting that he was skeptical that more time would allow Lohan to demonstrate she had changed after years of run-ins with the law.

"I don't know how the next two weeks is suddenly going to change the history of this case, these cases," Dabney said.

Lohan has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, lying to police and obstructing officers after her sports car crashed in June as she and a passenger headed to a movie shoot.

Lohan was on probation in a theft case at the time.

Heller had sought a delay as he works with prosecutors to reach a plea deal that could allow Lohan to pursue

inspirational speaking or other community service.

The attorney rejected the notion that the actress needs rehab, noting that she has been sentenced to treatment several

times before and she still ends up in trouble. "This is not what she needs—rehab," Heller said.

He said Lohan is engaged on one-on-one psychotherapy.

"Lindsay doesn't have a problem with alcohol and drugs," he said. "Lindsay's issues are different," he said, declining to elaborate further.

Lohan could face a return to jail if she is convicted, or if a judge determines she violated the terms of her sentence in the 2011 necklace theft case.



Lohan

2nd Jonah Lehrer book being pulled from shelves

NEW YORK (AP)—A second Jonah Lehrer book is being pulled.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Friday that Lehrer's "How We Decide," originally published in 2009, is being taken "off sale." Spokeswoman Lori Glazer said the decision followed an

internal review, but she didn't elaborate.

Lehrer's best-selling "Imagine" was withdrawn last year after Tablet Magazine reported that Lehrer had manipulated and fabricated Bob Dylan quotes. At the same time, he resigned as a staff writer for The New Yorker.

Glazer said Friday that the publisher will continue to sell a third Lehrer book, "Proust Was a Neuroscientist," which was released in 2007.

The 31-year-old Lehrer had been a popular author and speaker, specializing in books and essays about how the mind works. But he also has been

criticized for sloppy scholarship and faulty reasoning, and he admitted recycling his own journalism for separate publications.

During a recent speech in Miami, he blamed himself for "arrogance" and "carelessness" and expressed hope that he could revive his career.

Fans keep love alive for 'Walking Dead' star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—From week to week fans simply never know which characters will survive the relentless zombie attacks on AMC's hit series "The Walking Dead."

That unpredictability keeps viewers on the edge of their seats and the shows' stars in a constant state of alertness.

"You see series and they last a long time and sometimes the writing gets lazy or the acting gets lazy. Because we're in a zombie apocalypse and anyone can go at any time, it sort of

keeps us fresh and on our toes," Norman Reedus told The Associated Press Friday.

Fans lined up around the block to watch a panel discussion with Reedus and his co-stars at Paleyfest, the annual Southern California TV celebration. Many in the crowd showed their support for Reedus' crossbow-wielding character, Daryl Dixon, with their "If Daryl dies we riot!" T-shirts.

The 44-year-old actor says his vocal fan base is responsible for his character's impressive

longevity in a series that seems to have no qualms in axing its most popular characters.

"Hell yes. Oh my god, yes," he said. "(They're) keeping me on the show."

"The Walking Dead" focuses on a rag-tag band of surviving refugees, including unruly brothers Daryl and Merle Dixon, who were not part of the series' comic book origins.

"I want to be Daryl Dixon in my next life," joked co-star Laurie Holden. "He's sexy and he's got the rugged thing going

on."

When asked about his breakout star status, Reedus becomes humble and tries to turn the spotlight on his Golden Globe-nominated cast.

"I watch them grow and I watch myself grow. It's one of those acting things where like I'll be in a scene with her or with him and I'll say should I try this? And they'll go 'yeah' and I'll believe them and I'll trust them. Everyone wants everyone to just kill it," Reedus said with a laugh.

Seacrest dodges wedding question at 'Idol' event

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Seacrest can tell you lot about the evolution of American Idol over the last twelve seasons, but the host is a bit more reluctant to discuss the evolution of his relationship with actress Julianne Hough.

When asked by The Associated Press if there was a wedding date in his future, Seacrest casually responded: "Are you getting married?"

Seacrest and Hough have been together since the spring of 2010.

After a few playful rounds of "Are you?" banter on the subject, he decided to call it a day.

Seacrest made the comments Friday while promoting "Idol Across America," a relay of the "American Idol" microphone across the country, taking a page from the Olympic torch relay.

As for the prospect of the mi-



This image released by Starpix shows Ryan Seacrest during a news conference for "American Idol", Friday, March 1, 2013, to kick off the "Idol Across America," a promotion in New York.

crophone making it one piece, Seacrest says if not, "I'm sure there's one in a holster standing by if it breaks."

Madonna to present GLAAD award to Anderson Cooper

NEW YORK (AP)—Gay advocacy group GLAAD says Madonna will present CNN's Anderson Cooper with an award for openly gay media professionals.

GLAAD told The Associated Press on Saturday that the singer has been chosen to give Cooper the Vito Russo Award at the 24th annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City on March 16.

GLAAD President Herndon Graddick says Madonna and Cooper are longtime friends

who have both used their careers to support lesbian, gay and transgender people.

Cooper declined to speak publicly about his sexuality for years. But last July he gave blogger Andrew Sullivan permission to publish an email in which Cooper said he was gay and "couldn't be more happy."

Russo helped found GLAAD and wrote a book about gay people in the movies called "The Celluloid Closet."



Cooper

Susan Boyle to make screen acting debut



In this March 27, 2012 file photo, Susan Boyle performs during her musical 'I Dreamed A Dream' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, England.

AP

LONDON (AP)—Susan Boyle is making her big-screen acting debut in a Christmas-themed British period drama.

The Scottish singer appears in "The Christmas Candle," a story of angels and wishes set in an English village in the 1890s.

Boyle's role has not been disclosed. In a statement, Boyle said she was enjoying filming and "everyone on set is a delight to work with."

The movie also stars British actors Lesley Manville, John Hannah and Susan Barks, who recently played Eponine in "Les Misérables." It is due for release later this year.

A shy church volunteer from a small Scottish village, Boyle became a global sensation in 2009 after she performed "I Dreamed a Dream" on the television program "Britain's Got Talent."

She has since sold millions of records around the world.

Screening for kidney disease can prevent future damage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I always knew high blood pressure ran in my family, but I never realized it could cause kidney disease. Then I attended one of the National Kidney Foundation's free kidney health screenings and was shocked to learn that my lab results showed a decline in my kidney function. Because I felt healthy, I hadn't worried about my "borderline" hypertension. Turns out, my kidneys were silently being damaged.

I have since made lifestyle changes to control my blood pressure and prevent further damage. These include daily exercise and cutting back on salt, sweets and fast food.

Kidney disease and its leading causes—high blood pressure and diabetes—run in families, and one in three American adults are at risk. Many people don't realize that early detection can make a critical difference, protecting the kidneys and preventing damage.

March is National Kidney Month, and March 14 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation is urging Americans to learn their risk factors for kidney disease and to get their kidneys checked with a simple urine and blood test. They will offer more advice on protecting these vital organs and staying healthy. For a schedule of free kidney health screenings across the country, not only during March but throughout the year, visit the National Kidney Foundation website at kidney.org.

JEFF CARTER, BUFFALO, N.Y.

DEAR JEFF: I'm glad you wrote because I was taken aback to learn that more than 26 million American adults and thousands of children have chronic kidney disease.

Readers, it's important to be checked because millions of people with diabetes, hypertension and other diseases do not realize they're at risk for developing kidney disease. Could this include you or someone you love?

DEAR ABBY: I married into a shopaholic family. My husband and I live in a small home with our two young daughters. My biggest problem is my mother-in-law. She has only two interests: eating and shopping. Good manners dictate that I graciously accept all her gifts, but I am sick to my stomach over the gross excess.

I think she has an addiction. She has stolen from me the joy of buying baby clothes for my children. My Christmas tree is decked with all the ornaments from my husband's youth, and a massive dusty doll collection is coming our way.

Although my husband himself struggles with buying and collecting stuff, he agrees with me that less is better for our family. I would like to keep things simple, but it's impossible with my in-laws.

OVERLOADED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR OVERLOADED: People make purchases beyond that which is needed for various reasons. Sometimes it's an attempt to buy love. Other times it can be to ease anxiety or depression.

If you don't draw the line and make your wishes clear, your mother-in-law will not stop what she's doing. Explain that you are grateful for her generosity, but your house is FULL and therefore one or two gifts per child is all you will accept. Period.

Leave some of the Christmas decorations in storage next December so there will be room on your tree for some of your own. And when the doll collection is delivered, if your girls can't use it, consider selling or donating it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

George Lopez to host Playboy Jazz Festival

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Lopez is taking over as master of ceremonies of the annual Playboy Jazz Festival. The comedian was announced as the festival's new host Thursday at an event at the Playboy Mansion. "This is iconic," said the former star of the ABC sitcom "George Lopez" and the TBS talk show "Lopez Tonight." "I've never been here before. I was married for 17 years. I couldn't even have a Playboy air freshener." Bill Cosby previously served as the festival's host for more than 30 years. Cosby was a fixture at the gathering of jazz luminaries since the first festival was held in 1979. Lopez said Cosby called him to give him advice on the gig. His tips included not letting musicians in his dressing room "because they'll eat all your food and drink all your drink," joked Lopez. This year's show will feature such artists as Herbie Hancock, Jeffrey Osborne, Sheila E.

and Grace Kelly, who were on hand at Thursday's event. The Playboy Jazz Festival is scheduled for June 15 and 16 at the Hollywood Bowl.

'Modern Family' stars stuck 1 hour in KC elevator

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Three stars from the ABC comedy "Modern Family" got stuck in a Kansas City elevator for about an hour Friday night, delaying their appearance at a charity benefit. Julie Bowen, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet were in town for a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. Stonestreet grew up in Kansas City, Kan. The Kansas City Star reports the three actors were trapped in an elevator with about a dozen other people at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center, where they were headlining the fundraiser. Crews from the Kansas City Fire Department freed the group at about 10 p.m., an hour

after they were scheduled to appear. When they finally took the stage, the actors praised and thanked the Fire Department.

Queen Elizabeth II has stomach bug, cancels visit

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace says Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has canceled a public engagement after coming down with a stomach bug. The 86-year-old monarch had been due to visit Swansea, Wales, on Saturday to present leeks to soldiers of the Royal Welsh Regiment in honor of Wales' national day. The palace said the queen was experiencing symptoms of gastroenteritis and her condition would be assessed in the coming days. The monarch, who last year celebrated 60 years on the throne, is in generally robust health, despite her age. The palace said Friday that the queen is spending the weekend as usual at Windsor Castle outside London. She and her husband, Prince Philip, are

due to visit Rome next week.

Man charged in boating death of Usher's stepson

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (AP)—An Atlanta man has been charged with killing the 11-year-old stepson of pop star Usher in a boating collision last summer. Jeffrey Simon Hubbard was arrested Friday, the day after a Hall County grand jury indicted him on charges of first-degree homicide by vessel in the death of Kile Glover. Kile was the son of Usher's ex-wife, Tameka Raymond. District Attorney Lee Darragh tells The Times of Gainesville Hubbard is jailed without bond pending a court appearance Saturday. Authorities say Kile and his father, Ryan Glover, were vacationing at Lake Lanier when Hubbard crashed a personal watercraft into the boy's raft July 6. Kile died at a hospital July 21. Hubbard's father, Simon Hubbard, declined to comment. He said he didn't know if his son had hired an attorney.

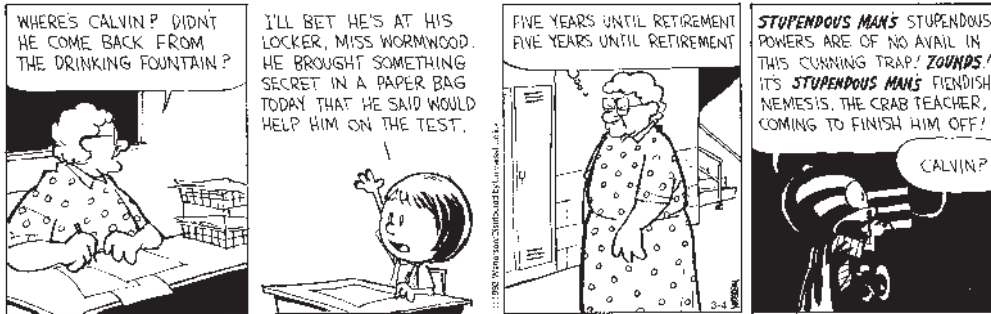
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

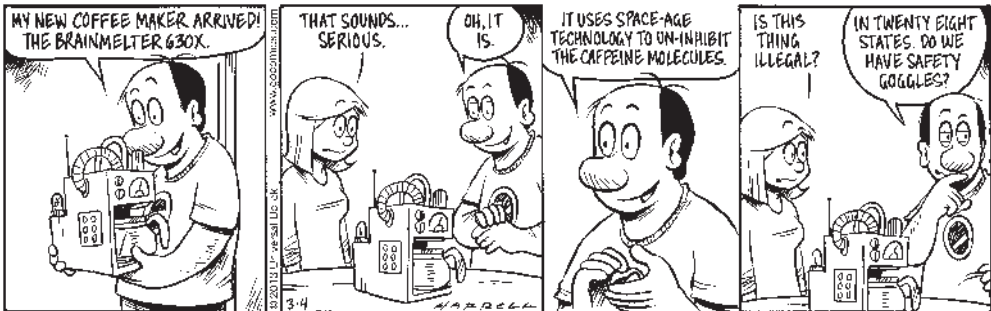


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nickelodeon's explorer

5 Phonograph stat

8 podrida

12 Acknowledge

13 "Born in the —"

14 Tide type

15 Korea-based sitcom

16 Laterally

18 Tartan patterns

20 Go by

21 "Star Wars" princess

23 Saute

24 Motorcycle attachments

28 Consider

31 Historic period

32 Prepare to pray

34 Chicken-link

35 Weaver's filling thread

DOWN

1 Moist

2 Elliptical

3 Parks of civil rights fame

4 For some time

5 Muscovites et al.

6 Omega precursor

7 Put together

8 Ahead

9 2012, but not 2013

10 Potato chip brand

11 Church section

17 Sprite

19 Pack of cards

22 "The results —"

24 Stitch

25 Anger

26 Jonquil's cousin

27 Dregs

29 Shady tree

30 More, to Manuel

33 Toy block name

36 Skill

38 Richard III's cry

40 The whole enchilada

42 Pronto, on a memo

43 Fourth dimension

44 Winnow

46 Easter emblem

47 Lotion additive

48 Chops

50 Convent denizen

Solution time: 27 mins.

U	M	P	G	I	F	T	L	E	V	I
S	U	E	O	R	E	O	I	M	A	M
S	T	R	E	A	K	E	B	U	R	P
R	E	P	U	T	E	D	R	Y		
T	E	P	E	E	W	E	D	A	R	E
A	P	E	R	J	A	R	S	L	A	B
L	E	E	P	O	X	C	H	E	S	T
L	E	N	G	T	H	C	O	O		
S	A	R	I	S	T	R	E	N	G	T
A	B	E	T	O	I	L	Y	G	E	E
C	A	P	S	N	E	S	S	S	P	Y

Friday's answer 3-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chaz Bono, 44; Patricia Heaton, 55; Mykelti Williamson, 56; Catherine O'Hara, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on personal finance, medical or legal matters. You can accomplish a lot and improve your overall position, reputation and status if you are diligent in the way you handle these matters. Focusing on relationships with others will help you receive the help or favors you require in order to make your life easier. Love is highlighted. Your numbers are 3, 10, 14, 22, 27, 30, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider what's available. Learning something new will help you get ahead, but staying in the same position of being overworked and underpaid will drag you down. Start planning for the future. Take the steps that lead to a better position. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make a difference. Stop thinking and start doing. Offer suggestions and hands-on help. A little can go a long way. Don't let emotional situations cost you financially. It's best to have a plan and to stick to it. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Elaborating will be frowned upon if you make someone look bad or if you stretch the truth. Taking on a cause you cannot handle on your own will make you look bad. Don't donate or offer more than what you can handle comfortably. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Step up and follow through. You'll have great ideas and a captive audience. Love is on the rise, and mixing business with pleasure will help you

advance. A business trip will result in experience, knowledge and worthwhile connections. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Connecting with people from your past will be costly but informative. A move or change of scenery will bring you more opportunities to explore old goals. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Take care of personal paperwork. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partnerships will weigh in heavily when it comes to making a decision. You must feel comfortable with the outcome, or back away. Don't overreact, but do speak up regarding what's acceptable and what's not. Emotional turmoil is likely to develop at home. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Finish whatever job you are given quickly and efficiently. You are likely to face criticism if you fall behind. You will discover valuable information if you sign up for a cultural event. An unexpected change regarding a partnership will end up being beneficial. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Working from home can help you save money. Changes to your living arrangements will help you pay off an investment. Follow your heart when it comes to personal and domestic matters. Personal enhancement and romance are on the rise. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tread carefully when dealing with friends, relatives or people in your community. You will be misinterpreted or blamed for something if you are too open or aggressive.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Focus on how you can make your home more inviting. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let a meddler influence a partnership or deal. Stick to your game plan regardless of what anyone else decides to do. An old friend or lover will be a reminder of how to handle your current situation. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reconsider before making changes. You are likely in a better position than you realize. Bide your time and focus on how you can make your home or your job more to your liking. Present your ideas and the service you can offer. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Unpromising individuals will lead you astray. Don't let your heart and emotions rule your head. Consider the pros and cons and make a decision based on what you will gain in the end. Smart moves will ensure future success. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive. You have poise and a mystical appeal.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7			5		1	9		
8	2					5		4	
				6			2	3	
		8		9	1				
7									5
			8	3		9			
3	8				5				
4		6					8	1	
	9	7		2			5		

Difficulty Level ★

3/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	4	3	6	9	7	8	5
5	8	3	7	4	2	1	9	6
7	9	6	1	8	5	2	3	4
4	3	2	9	7	6	8	5	1
6	1	5	8	2	3	9	4	7
8	7	9	4	5	1	3	6	2
2	4	7	6	9	8	5	1	3
3	6	8	5	1	7	4	2	9
9	5	1	2	3	4	6	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★

3/01

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UMBRELLAS

Solution: 3 letters

S	R	A	N	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	W	N	S
Y	C	E	T	Y	R	G	H	P	P	I	R	G	T	E
F	P	O	T	E	L	E	O	E	U	E	I	L	F	P
O	R	O	T	S	F	O	H	R	A	S	U	S	I	A
M	F	A	N	C	E	F	N	T	E	D	H	D	L	H
C	P	O	M	A	H	Y	A	D	A	S	P	I	T	S
L	W	A	O	E	C	G	L	T	H	E	H	K	H	T
O	E	H	R	R	L	U	U	O	S	Y	W	A	H	R
S	D	A	A	P	B	R	A	P	U	D	U	F	E	
E	I	L	T	L	S	R	A	V	E	R	E	N	D	S
N	B	E	E	D	E	O	E	T	E	D	F	R	O	C
A	M	E	O	I	O	B	L	T	E	T	O	O	I	H
C	T	R	A	V	H	O	O	R	A	L	L	P	T	E
S	I	Z	E	C	E	S	W	N	O	W	D	S	A	R
E	L	D	N	A	H	R	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	S

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Last Friday's Answer: Children

by using THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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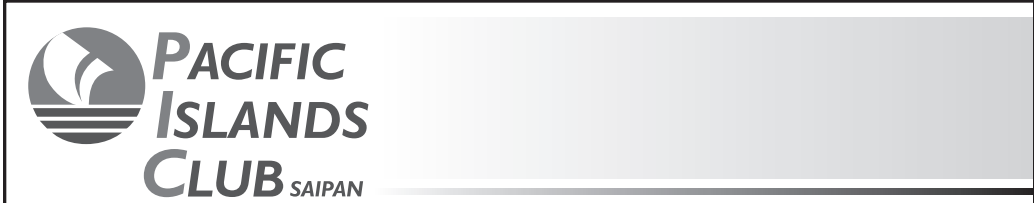
All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



is inviting qualified US workers to apply
for the following positions:

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays

(3) CHEF DE PARTIE

Minimum three (3) years experience as a cook in a hotel; supervisory experience preferred; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(15) COOK

Minimum one (1) year related work experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2) ELECTRICIAN

Minimum five (5) years related work experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2) FRONT DESK CLERK

Minimum one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality; Previous cashiering experience required; Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays; fluency in Korean, Russian and/or Japanese languages preferred.

(1) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

Minimum two (2) years previous Front Desk supervisory experience is required; Ability to solve guest related concerns and lead a team. Prefer language ability: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Minimum 3 years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(5) LEAD COOK

Minimum three years experience as a cook; at least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

**Completed applications must be received by
5:00pm on MARCH 13, 2013.**

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

Skills testing may be required for some positions.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EMPLOYMENT

Cement Supervisor \$7/hr. Must have cement handling equipment exp. Apply at Hanson Micronesia Cement.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Starting as low as... **\$29.99**

without Insurance

Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866

\$100 Security Deposit Required

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Some conditions may apply

Job Vacancy Announcement

EXCHANGE CLERK

- 1-2 yrs experience in Foreign Currency Exchange
- At least high school graduate

Please send resume to:
CNMI Currency Exchange Inc.
Fax No.: 234-5104

Wanted – Commercial cleaner for diving business on Rota. Five years experience, high school diploma, 2 letters of recommendation from former employers and police clearance required. Minimum salary. Call 532-3423 for interview.

Double Luck Int'l Corp.
Tel. 234-3873

Vacancy Announcement
Pet Shop Helper

3yrs experience required. Maintain water piping & water system. Knowledge in breeding gold fishes. Take care of animals, feed, clean, and arrange animal and poultry feed.

Interested applicants please send resume to
P. O. Box 502351 CK Saipan, MP 96950

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Cook – Chinese Cuisine
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 3 – 5 yrs exp.
(1) Maintenance Building Repairer
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 2 yrs exp.
Interested applicants may call
Yang Xia at 233-9468

VACANCY
J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position
Supervisor
Please apply in person at the
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

Job Vacancy Announcement
1 – Building Maintenance Repairer
Salary: 5.55/hr
Installs, maintains and repairs machinery, equipment, physical structures and pipe and electrical systems in Horiguchi Bldg using hand tools, power tools, hoist, crane and testing instruments and following specification blueprints, manuals and schematic diagrams by visual inspection and tests. Assist on other maintenance duties as assigned.
Interested applicants may contact
Fuji Pacific, Inc. at 234-0583
and ask for Nita San Nicolas or fax resume to 234-3605.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOSEPHINE D.LC. PIAO,) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 13-0051
vs.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
ANDERSON PARKS, Respondent.)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501456, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 6th day of February, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Looking for something?
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Call us at
235-8747

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING
Job Vacancy Announcement
(3) Commercial Cleaner
(1) General Maintenance
- Must have at least 5 years working experience
Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville Saipan, MP 96950

Ocean Club, Inc. - Vacancy Announcement
(1) MANAGER-DIVING Directs overall operation of business and related matters in diving activities and lodging. Directs and coordinates necessary workflow of a busy training facility. Requirement in management include ability to work in a distracting, fast-paced environment and adapt to changes; must possess excellent client / customer-service and interpersonal communication skills; must maintain meticulous record and files, and be computer literate (i.e. familiar with recent versions of Microsoft office and internet programs); basic understanding for concept of laws and regulations a plus. Requirement in diving instruction include ability to train scuba diving instructor candidates and CPR instructor candidates; teach sports and diving activities to individuals or groups by explaining and demonstrating principle techniques and movement of body , hands or feet to achieve proficiency in activities; explain and demonstrate the use of scuba diving by the standard of N.A.U.I., and guide and accompany them in diving tour, etc. Consulting knowledge and marketing skill for boat building a plus. Must be college graduate with at least 2 yrs. management experience in the diving field required, 5years preferred Must possess Certification (NAUI) as Dive Instructor for community (5-10yrs experience preferred), Specialty trainer (with minimum 2 yrs. experience and as CPR instructor for community First Aid and Safety. Certification as Course Director, a plus. Proficiency in Japanese language (both oral and written) critical. Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00pm, semi-monthly salary with housing provided. Interested applicants must submit a resume with supporting certification documents and police clearance in person to Ocean Club, Inc, or send via email at cnmi@live.com.

Joe’s Bar & Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

WAITRESS (3)
Qualifications:
■ High School graduate or equivalent with at least minimum of 3 years experience in bar operation.
■ With good customer service and strong communication skills required.
■ Able to work flexible hours.
■ Ability to speak Japanese and Chinese is a plus.

COOK (2)
Qualifications:
■ High School graduate or equivalent with at least a minimum of 5 years experience in preparation of Steak and International cuisine.
■ Must possess an excellent hygiene and cleanliness to work station.
■ Fast and efficient worker.
■ Must be knowledgeable in marketing of foods and supplies.
■ Able to work flexible hours.

Applications may be obtained at Joe’s Bar & Steakhouse Capital’s office located in Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Application deadline is March 6, 2013, NLT 5:00 p.m.

Background check is required.

For more information, please contact 233-5367.

Joe’s Bar & Steak House Capital is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-016
PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS (Phase No. 3)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 14, 2013** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-13-016, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page—http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE
ACCOUNTANT
Submit resume to:
International Insurance Agency
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

S P O R T S

Sources: Flacco agrees to Ravens deal

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Joe Flacco will have a huge contract to go along with his Super Bowl ring.

The Baltimore Ravens reached a tentative agreement Friday on a new deal that would make the Super Bowl MVP the highest-paid player in NFL history.

If the deal is finalized, the veteran quarterback would receive in excess of \$120 million over six years, according to a person close to the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract has not yet been signed. Flacco would earn more than the \$20 million average salary Drew Brees receives with the New Orleans Saints.

Reaching agreement with Flacco before Monday’s 4 p.m. franchise deadline meant the Ravens are assured of retaining their starting quarterback and don’t have to take a salary cap hit of approximately \$19.5 million.

Flacco played out his rookie contract last season for \$6.76 million and led Baltimore to the NFL championship.

Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said the sides have settled on the parameters of the deal, but still have some language and details to work out.

Fox Sports first reported the new deal.

On Feb. 7, Newsome said, “If we are able to get a deal done, it will allow us to participate more in the (free agent)



In this Feb. 3, 2013, file phot, Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco (5) looks to throw a pass during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game against the San Francisco 49ers in New Orleans.

market, if we so choose.”

With Flacco’s contract essentially settled, Newsome can turn his attention toward re-signing free agents Ed Reed, Paul Kruger and Bryant McKinnie.

The 28-year-old Flacco is the only quarterback to win a postseason game in each of his first five pro seasons. He had a spectacular playoffs and Super Bowl this year, throwing for 11 touchdowns with no interceptions.

He also holds the record for playoff road wins with six.

Before the Super Bowl, Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti expressed confidence that Flacco would be the Ravens’ quarterback of the future.

“We’ve never lost a great, great franchise player from the beginning,” Bisciotti said. “I’m just very comfortable that it will get done.”

On Friday, it did. Flacco was a first-round draft pick in 2008 out of Delaware and one of the most consistent postseason winners in NFL history.

Flacco said after the Super Bowl victory over San Francisco that he expected to be back in Baltimore. He made sure of that Friday, coincidentally hours after the franchise tag figures for 2013 became known. Had Flacco been franchised, he would have earned at least \$14.896 million this season.

Cowboys redo 5 contracts, save cap space

IRVING, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys have reworked the contracts of five starters, including DeMarcus Ware, Jason Witten and Miles Austin, to save salary cap space.

Dallas, which was penalized \$5 million off its cap in both 2012 and 2013, needed to scramble to free up space. By restructuring the deals of star linebacker Ware, tight end Witten, wide receiver Austin, cornerback Brandon Carr and center Ryan Cook, the Cowboys wiped out the \$20 million they were projected to be over the cap this year.

The biggest savings will come in the Carr deal. Dallas

signed Carr as a free agent last year, and Thursday’s moves turn nearly all of the \$14.3 million he was due in salary into a signing bonus. Carr will count \$3.5 million against this year’s cap.

Ware’s salary is going down to \$1 million for this season, and a \$5 million bonus is being spread over the rest of the contract, saving \$4 million. Austin’s deal also will save \$4 million, and Witten’s will take another \$3.6 million off the cap.

The Cowboys could get further under the cap with a new contract for Tony Romo, who is entering the final year of his deal and counts \$16.8 million

against the cap this season. Right tackle Doug Free, who struggled most of last season, could save \$7 million on the cap if he is cut by June 1.

Dallas is interested in re-signing linebacker Anthony Spencer, an unrestricted free agent, but owner Jerry Jones said at the NFL combine last week he wasn’t sure the Cowboys could afford to keep their sacks leader from 2012.

The Cowboys also re-signed long snapper L.P. Ladouceur to a five-year contract. He’s been with Dallas since the middle of the 2005 season. He’s handled snaps on 562 punts, 245 field goals and 341 extra points.

Female kicker set for NFL regional combine tryout

Lauren Silberman has scant chance at making the NFL.

Silberman never kicked anything more than a soccer ball in an organized game and she just started practicing long-range field goals.

Even so, the first female kicker scheduled to try out at an NFL regional scouting combine would like to see where her new hobby will take her. In an era where Danica Patrick can con-

tend against men in motor sports, Silberman is about to take a big kick forward for female athletes, even if the odds are clearly stacked against her. The 28-year-old Silberman will kick Sunday at the New York Jets’ training facility in Florham Park, N.J.

“I am working hard to prepare but I am also realistic about my chances,” she wrote in an email. “I hope my willingness to put myself out there

inspires others to seize opportunities and challenges. The support from around the world has been so heartening.”

Her goal for the weekend is a true long shot: perfect 60-yard field goals.

Odds are, though, that scouts will want to see her connect on extra points and chip-shot field goals with some consistency before moving on to the heavy kicking.

Noah, Boozer lead Bulls past Nets, 96-85



CHICAGO (AP)—Joakim Noah had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Carlos Boozer scored 20 points and the Chicago Bulls beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-85 on Saturday.

The Bulls went on a 19-0 run that started in the second quarter and stretched into third, giving them an 18-point lead. They opened March on a winning note after going 5-8 in February, just their second losing month in 2 1/2 seasons under coach Tom Thibodeau.

Noah followed up the third triple-double of his career with another terrific performance that also included four blocks. He committed five turnovers, but even so it sure was an impressive follow-up to Thursday's gem, when he had 23 points, 21 rebounds and a career-high 11 blocks in a win over Philadelphia.

Boozer added eight rebounds. Jimmy Butler had 13 points, Nate Robinson and Kirk Hinrich scored 12 apiece, and the Bulls won their second straight after dropping seven of 10.

Brook Lopez led Brooklyn with 22 points—14 in the first quarter—but the Nets fell for the fourth time in five games. Deron Williams cooled off, finishing with 14 after averaging 27 over the previous three games.

Joe Johnson scored 11 in his second game back after missing three with a foot injury and committed five of Brooklyn's 21 turnovers.

Noah had 15 points in the first half, and the Bulls led 53-39 at the break after trailing by 11 in the early going.

They scored the final 15 points of the second quarter and got a pull-up jumper and driving layup from Boozer to start the third, turning a one-point deficit into a 57-39 lead.

Daequan Cook ignited the run by nailing a 3 with 4:16 remaining in the half, and Robinson and Hinrich struck from long range on back-to-back possessions with about a minute remaining.

Butler also scored four during that stretch, including a 20-footer with 18.8 seconds remaining, and Brooklyn's C.J. Watson missed a long jumper at the buzzer to keep the lead at 14.

Bucks 122, Raptors 114, OT

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis scored six of his 23 points in overtime and Ersan Ilyasova and Brandon Jennings added five apiece in the extra period to spark the Milwaukee Bucks over the Toronto Raptors.

Ilyasova finished with 29 points and 11 rebounds, while Brandon Jennings had a career-high 19 assists, including one in overtime.

Kyle Lowry had a triple-double with 10 points, 10 rebounds



Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah (13) chases a loose ball past Brooklyn Nets forward Mirza Teletovic, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Saturday, March 2, 2013.

and 10 assists, Alan Anderson scored 21 points off the bench and Amir Johnson added 19 for Toronto, which lost for the fourth consecutive time and fifth in six games since tying a season best with a five-game winning streak.

Toronto was without Rudy Gay, the team's leading scorer at 18 points per game, who was a game-time decision due to back spasms.

76ers 104, Warriors 97

In Philadelphia, Evan Turner had 22 points, 10 rebounds and

nine assists, Jrue Holiday scored 27, and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Thad Young had 14 points and 16 rebounds and Royal Ivey chipped in with 17 points for the Sixers, who are 5 1/2 games behind Milwaukee for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with 25 games left.

Stephen Curry scored 30 and Klay Thompson added 29 for the Warriors, who've lost four in a row.

Trail Blazers 109, Timberwolves 96

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard scored 24 points, J.J. Hickson added 18 points and 16 rebounds and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Minnesota Timberwolves to earn only their second win in nearly a month.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and eight rebounds for Portland, which had six players score in double-figures. The Blazers jumped out to a 10-point lead in the first quarter and led by as many as 18, while the Timber-

wolves never challenged.

Derrick Williams had 23 points and eight rebounds to lead the Wolves, who have dropped their last five games

and 21 of 25. Luke Ridnour added 18 points and six assists, and former Blazer Dante Cunningham had 16 points and eight rebounds off the bench.



NBA BRIEFS

Magic offers \$1M if James does dunk contest

NEW YORK (AP)—Magic Johnson is giving LeBron James a million reasons to consider the slam dunk contest. The Hall of Famer says Friday during ESPN's pregame show that he will put up \$1 million if James finally enters the marquee event of All-Star Saturday night. James has always refused to enter the contest, but he's recently been putting on a dunking show before Miami's games, reigniting interest in seeing him take part. Johnson says: "Please LeBron, get in the dunk contest. I'm going to put up a million dollars. A million dollars to LeBron. Please get in the dunk contest. I go every year. I want to see you out there. A million to the winner." The NBA currently pays \$100,000 to the winner and \$50,000 to the runner-up.

Spurs' Parker out about a month with ankle sprain

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker will be out for about a month with a left ankle sprain. Parker, the team's leading assist man, injured the ankle in the third period of Friday night's win over the Sacramento Kings. The team announced Saturday afternoon that an MRI showed Parker had a Grade 2 left ankle sprain, and will be out for

"approximately four weeks." The 30-year-old Parker closed out February averaging 26.1 points and 8.3 assists and had shot 54 percent from the field. On Friday night, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Parker was "playing better than any other point guard in the league" this year, and that the team would miss him.

Juwan Howard signs 10-day with Heat

Juwan Howard was on the floor for the final moments of the win that clinched last season's NBA championship for the Miami Heat. Turns out, that might not have been his last game as a pro. The Heat brought Howard back on Saturday, signing the 40-year-old power forward to a 10-day contract. It will be his 19th NBA season, and he's expected to be with the team on Sunday when Miami visits the New York Knicks. And after the way Heat President Pat Riley described the move, it doesn't appear to be one made just on a whim. "Juwan is a key part of the championship culture here in Miami," Riley said Saturday in a statement released by the Heat. "He is essential to this team and can still play this game at a high level in some of our biggest games yet to come. He has a unique veteran savvy and will provide leadership and experience to our team." The Heat did not practice Saturday before gathering to fly to New York. (AP)

50shots! Bam!"

Last June, seven weeks before he made history by running at the London Games, Pistorius tweeted that he was going back to Tolmezzo to shoot vintage rifles, adding: "Amped to the max! Yeaah boi!!"

Gun collecting is regulated by South Africa's stringent Firearms Control Act. Pistorius had to explain to his collecting association, both in writing and in interviews, what types of firearms he wanted to collect and why.

Beare said he and two other association members interviewed Pistorius in June or July 2012, shortly before he became the first double-amputee Olympic runner.

"He was still budding (as a collector) at that stage. He had done his research on it and he was interested in American firearms," Beare said.

The association certified Pistorius as a beginner collector, Beare said. Pistorius bought two Smith & Wesson revolvers and three shotguns and sent photos of the firearms and their serial numbers to the association, as required, Beare said.

Pistorius bought, collected guns in Olympic year

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—In his Olympic year, Oscar Pistorius steadily became an avid firearms collector, joining a gun-collecting club and purchasing a collection of firearms that included a .500 Magnum pistol dubbed by its manufacturer as "the most powerful production revolver in the world" and a civilian version of a military assault rifle.

At the end of 2012, in the first blush of his romance with Reeva Steenkamp, the model he later shot and killed, Pistorius got deeper into his hobby. It was known that Pistorius liked guns but only now, from Associated Press interviews with other collectors, is it becoming clear the extent to which he became a dedicated firearms aficionado in the 12 months before he shot Steenkamp.

The track star not only applied for licenses to own more guns, but actually bought them, too, according to John Beare, vice chairman of the Lowveld Firearm Collectors Association which accepted Pistorius as a

paid-up member last April. He and Pistorius were introduced at a Johannesburg hotel in January 2012, and it was there that Beare first explained to the athlete and some of his friends how to become certified collectors.

Had he not become a collector, Pistorius would under South African law have been limited to a maximum of four firearms for self-defense, of which only two could have been handguns, according to Johannesburg attorney Martin Hood, who specializes in firearms law.

Carvel Webb, chairman of the National Arms and Ammunition Collectors Confederation of South Africa, an umbrella group for the country's 2,000 approved private collectors including Pistorius, said that in the wake of Steenkamp's killing his group will now verify that Pistorius fulfilled the necessary requirements to be accepted as a collector and a decision in January to let him start collecting semi-automatic rifles.

"We will review all of those

just to see if we are happy with it," Webb said.

Pistorius made no secret of his passion for firearms. Reporters who visited him at home in Pretoria, the capital, saw the pistol he kept by his bed and was licensed to own. He practiced at firing ranges both in South Africa and in Europe where he trained for the London Games. But apparently less well-known was his involvement with gun collectors to start building a firearms collection.

Beare said he twice observed Pistorius shoot at firing ranges and also at a clay pigeon shoot, but saw nothing to suggest he could be a menace with a gun.

"His safety was good," Beare told the AP. "He wouldn't do anything irrational with a firearm, because then I would have nailed him immediately."

Pistorius says he mistook his girlfriend Steenkamp for a home intruder and shot her while she was in his bathroom toilet, firing through the closed door. Pistorius' license for the 9

mm pistol was issued on Sept. 10, 2010, according to the South African Police Service's National Firearms Center. It was registered for self-defense

Prosecutors have charged Pistorius with premeditated murder for killing Steenkamp with three of four shots fired in the early hours of Feb. 14.

"I had no reason to believe that there was anything wrong, that he could have a dark side, that there could be something wrong," said Beare.

However, Roberto Siriu, president of the Tolmezzo shooting range in northeast Italy, said Pistorius did not seem to him to be well-trained with firearms.

"No, I don't think so. He didn't give me that impression," Siriu told the AP.

Pistorius shot at Tolmezzo during breaks from athletic training in the nearby town of Gemona. In November 2011, Pistorius posted a photo of himself firing a rifle at Tolmezzo, with the words: "Had a 96% headshot over 300m from

Bud Selig calls for tougher drug penalties



SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.
(AP)—Base-

ball Commissioner Bud Selig called for tougher penalties for major leaguers who violate the sport's drug agreement, a move the union is willing to consider but not for the 2013 season.

Speaking at a news conference Saturday at the Arizona Diamondbacks' spring training ballpark, Selig said last year's positive drug test for All-Star game MVP Melky Cabrera and allegations players received banned substances from a now-closed Florida anti-aging clinic helped lead him to seek stiffer penalties as quickly as possible.

He declined to give specifics, saying MLB Executive Vice President Rob Manfred and players' union head Michael Weiner will meet.

Weiner said Monday that some players have expressed support for tougher penalties. Selig said he was encouraged by Weiner's comments.

"The players have been discussing whether changes in the penalties are warranted since the offseason," Weiner said Saturday during a telephone interview. "As I've said throughout spring training, there's a variety of player views on this subject. In fact, during the offseason we suggested to the commissioner's office the possibility of differential penalties, namely advanced penalties for certain intentional violations but reduced penalties for negligent violations."

"That format was not of interest to MLB at that time. We look forward to ongoing negotiations over the drug program, but any change in the penalties would be a 2014 issue. It would be unfair to change the drug-testing rules now that the 2013 program has begun to be implemented."

MLB and the union started urine testing with an anonymous survey in 2003 and added penalties in 2004, when a first offense resulted in treatment. A 10-day suspension for a first offense was instituted for 2005, and the current discipline structure has been in place since the 2006 season: 50 games for an initial PEDs infraction, 100 games for a second and a lifetime ban for a third. No player has reached the third level.

The initial penalty for a stimulants offense is follow-up testing, with a 25-game penalty for a second violation, 80 games for a third and the discipline for additional offenses to be determined by the commissioner under a "just cause" standard.

Selig wants a tougher penalty for first-time offenders.

"There's no question about that," he said.

Twelve players were given 10-day suspensions in 2005. Thirty suspensions have been announced from 2006 on, including just two 100-game bans - to pitcher Guillermo Mota and catcher Eliezer Alfonzo. The



MLB Commissioner Bud Selig speak with reporters at a press conference regarding drug testing in major league baseball during a spring training baseball game at Salt River Fields near Scottsdale, Ariz., Saturday, March 2, 2013.

penalty for Alfonzo was cut to 48 games because of procedural issues similar to the ones that led an arbitrator last year to overturn Ryan Braun's positive test for elevated testosterone before a suspension was announced.

Suspensions for positive urine samples announced in 2012 increased to eight, when Cabrera, Bartolo Colon and Yasmani Grandal all tested positive for testosterone.

"We've made meaningful adjustments to our testing, and the time has come to make meaningful adjustments to our penalties," Selig said. "There is no question that there have been enough events that say to me the program is good, but apparently the penalties haven't deterred some people."

Players and management added spring training blood testing for human growth hormone last year and in January announced a deal expanding it to the regular season. Also in January, they said the World Anti-Doping Agency laboratory in Laval, Quebec, will keep records of each player, including his baseline ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone. The lab will conduct Carbon Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (IRMS) tests of any urine specimens that "vary materially."

MLB was the first major sports league in North America to test for HGH.

Selig said those who have violated the anti-drug rules are "a very small percentage" of players.

"A great majority really, really have been terrific," Selig said, "and I give the players' association a lot of credit. We had lots of problems two decades ago, 10 years ago, but I'm confident that Michael and Rob will sit down, because I feel very strongly about this."

Cabrera, who was leading the

NL in hitting for the San Francisco Giants, was suspended for 50 games last year. After asking for a rules change that prevented him from winning the NL batting title, he signed a \$16

million, two-year contract with Toronto during the offseason.

Selig would not comment on the now-defunct Biogenesis of America clinic in Coral Gables, Fla., other than to say it is the

Guthrie, Thompson tied for Honda Classic lead



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Michael Thompson felt like he was playing in a U.S. Open whenever he saw his golf ball in the rough or the scores on the leaderboard at the Honda Classic.

No one was going anywhere Saturday at PGA National.

In cool, blustery conditions on a course with water hazards at nearly every turn, the strategy was to keep the head down and keep big numbers off the scorecard. Thompson and PGA Tour rookie Luke Guthrie managed to do that well enough to share the lead going into the final round.

Guthrie was tested his first time in the last group on tour and made a collection of solid pars on his final eight holes for a 1-over 71. Thompson accepted his bogeys and finished with a two-putt birdie on the 18th for a 70.

They were at 8-under 202, and while the conditions were tough, equally daunting were some of the names behind him.

Lee Westwood, who moved his family down the road from PGA National over the Christmas break, rallied over the last five holes by chipping in for birdie, making an 18-foot birdie putt on the 17th and salvaging par after hitting into the water on the par-5 18th. That gave him a 70 and put him only two shots behind.

He was tied with Geoff Ogilvy, who appears to have snapped out of his putting doldrums that cost him dearly on the West Coast. Ogilvy recovered from three bogeys in four holes at the start of his round by making a 7-foot

birdie putt at the end for a 70.

By one shot, Ogilvy missed staying in the top 50 at the end of last year for an automatic invitation to the Masters. He has slipped to No. 79, but a win Sunday would take care of that, and runner-up alone at least should get him into the top 50 and earn a spot at Doral next week.

The Australian summed up the day perfectly.

"Even par for the day was never going to go backward," Ogilvy said. "It was only going to go forward, and I did that."

Eleven players were separated by four shots going into the final round, a group that included Charles Howell III, Keegan Bradley, Justin Rose and Rickie Fowler, who surged into the picture with a birdie-eagle finish for a 69. He was the only player among the last 46 players to tee off who broke par.

None of the top 20 players going into Saturday did better than 70.

"The rough is definitely, exactly like a U.S. Open," Thompson said. "You just have to take your medicine and make your bogey, just try to eliminate the doubles out here and just try to play smart golf and know that you're going to make a couple birdies."

Missing from the mix was Tiger Woods.

Woods had hoped to post a low score to at least get into contention and was headed that way with a 32 on the front nine. But he didn't make another birdie the rest of the way, and took a double bogey on the par-3 17th when his shot plugged into the bank short

subject of a "very thorough investigation" by MLB.

The facility was alleged in media reports to have provided performance-enhancing substances to several players, including Cabrera, Alex Rodriguez and Nelson Cruz. The players have denied they obtained banned drugs from the clinic. MLB has been trying to obtain purported records of the clinic posted online by The Miami New Times, which initially revealed the allegations.

"The program is working fine," Selig said, "but I've come to the conclusion the more I've thought about this that obviously there are some people, small in number, who need to be given a tougher lesson."

In the year ending with the 2012 World Series, there were seven positives for performance-enhancing substances and 11 for stimulants among 3,955 urine tests and 1,181 blood tests, according to a report issued in November by baseball's independent program administrator, Dr. Jeffrey M. Anderson.

"We're way ahead of what anybody could have thought, but my father used to tell me life is nothing but a series of adjust-

ments," Selig said, "and this is an adjustment that you have to make based on what you see."

Joe Torre and Tony La Russa, retired managers who work for Major League Baseball, both voiced support for the tougher penalties at Selig's news conference.

Torre, the former New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers skipper who will manage the United States in the World Baseball Classic, said it is important to remove questions fans may have about whether players are clean.

"Until we can gain the total respect back from fans and have them trust us again, we've got work to do," he said.

La Russa, longtime manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, said although the punishment already is severe, it apparently isn't enough.

"Just make that risk so punishing that we can eliminate this," he said.

Selig said stiffer penalties are in the best interest of baseball.

"Anybody who will be dismayed by this announcement is living in a world that I don't understand," he said, "and in my own feeling frankly doesn't exist."

of the green and he never found the ball. He wound up with a 70, not a bad score under the conditions, but not good enough to achieve what he wanted. He was eight shots behind.

Woods was nine shots out of the lead a year ago after 54 holes, closed with a 62 and was runner-up by two shots to Rory McIlroy.

Instead of the No. 1 player at the top of the leaderboard, there is a pair of players who have never won on the PGA Tour, two players who realized that a victory Sunday would get them into the Masters. Thompson hasn't been to Augusta National since 2008 as a U.S. Amateur finalist.

It might help that the expectations will hang on those behind them.

"You definitely see the names," Guthrie said. "I would like to see them all up there, and hopefully, right behind me. You want to compete, you want to play against the best and lay it all on the line tomorrow on the back nine. Hopefully, they're all there and we're battling."

If the wind is anything like it was Saturday, it could be a matter of hanging on - and not just for them.

Proof of that was the scoring. Y.E. Yang had a 67, the low score of the third round, and moved up 36 spots into a tie for seventh.

Westwood made a pair of sloppy bogeys to end the front nine and was in danger of falling too far behind until a 33 on the back nine got him back in the game. Just as key was getting through the 10th and 11th holes with par.

The par-4 11th, with the second shot over a lake, played so difficult that it yielded only birdie among 75 players—a 35-foot putt by Yang—and played to an average score of 4.8, which was higher than both the par 5s at PGA National.

The 10th played just over 500 yards as a par 4 and into the wind, so tough that Ogilvy had to hit 3-wood for his second shot.

"I like my chances regardless of the conditions," Westwood said. "I'm playing nicely. Just got a couple of mistakes I made today, but other than that, I'm playing solidly. I have to start making a few putts. I had a lot of chances to make putts that just grazed the hole. I like being out late on a Sunday and having a chance."

Five of the nine players within four shots of the lead could get to the Masters with a win, and that would be particularly meaningful to Howell, who grew up in Augusta. He was five shots out of the lead, until making a 20-foot birdie on the 15th and coming close to the water on the 18th, stopping short of a bunker for an up-and-down birdie that gave him a 71.

Fowler had a 69 and finished nearly two hours before the leaders. When the round was over, his name was prominently on the leaderboard. He will play in the final round with Howell in the third-to-last group.

"The biggest thing is being within a few shots going into the back nine tomorrow," Fowler said. "That's where the tournament really starts."

Adobo remains undefeated in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Seven and still counting.

Adobo notched two wins over the weekend to stay perfect in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational.

Adobo first dominated the Sexy Boys, 85-72, last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court and then rallied past Maplas La Mani last Saturday, 50-48, to move two victories away from sweeping the regular season.

Against Maplas, Adobo came back from a four-point deficit in the last one minute of the match to steal the win. Thanks to Lester Vertudez, who scored the last 6 points for Adobo and made a big defensive stop in the homestretch.

Adobo grabbed the lead when it prevailed in a scramble for the loose ball and Vertudez was fed for a fastbreak layup with less than 20 seconds left on the clock. Vertudez then played tough defense on the other end, blocking Ryan Odicka's attempt, picking up another loose ball, and dribbling out the time to their frontcourt to secure the victory.

Vertudez finished with a game-high 22 points and was the lone-double figure scorer for Adobo.

Dennis Morales had 14 for Maplas (4-3), which absorbed back-to-back sorry losses after winning four straight. Ryan Odicka and Gerald Aniceto added 10 for Maplas, which played without Rommel and Mico Usi and the injured Dennis Cortez.

Meanwhile, in Adobo's win last Friday, the division leader did not have to play catch-up, as it had the game in the bag as early as the third period.

Adobo was only ahead by five at halftime, 38-35, when it outgunned the Sexy Boys in the third canto, 23-9, to build a commanding 61-42 advantage. Vertudez, James Dela Cruz, and Kristian Alegre scored 6 points

apiece in the breakaway with the latter canning back-to-back triples in the closing minutes of the third to break the Sexy Boys' back.

The Sexy Boys never made headway in the fourth, as it just traded baskets with Adobo and the former went on to taste its second straight defeat a 5-0 start.

Dela Cruz led Adobo's win

over the Sexy Boys with his 20 points, while Vertudez contributed 14. Herbert Maranan and John Larot had 23 and 22 markers for the Sexy Boys, respectively.

FRIDAY

Adobo 85 – Dela Cruz 20, Vertudez 14, Saturno 9, Alegre 8, Mamaril 7, Aranda 6, Yap 5, Tadifa 4, Camacho 3.

Sexy Boys 72 – Maranan 23, Larot 22, Tinio 12, Santos 4, Sa-

blan 3, Tumbaga 3, R. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-12, 38-33, 61-42, 85-72.

SATURDAY

Adobo 50 – Vertudez 22, Saturno 6, Dela Cruz 6, Tadifa 4, Alegre 2, Aranda 2, Yap 1.

Maplas La Mani 48 – Morales 14, Odicka 10, Aniceto 10, Flores 6, Surla 4.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 22-14, 33-33, 50-48.

STALLIONS

From Page 28

MHS earned a first round bye as the second ranked team during the regular season and bounced back after faltering out of the gate with victories over the Kagman High School Ayuyus, 74-58; MCS, 82-58; and its bitter rival SSSHS, 57-43, to get an outside shot for the title.

The Stallions plan on celebrating their title defense on Taga Beach upon returning home.

On behalf of the squad, coach Nabors thanked Josh Castro, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and his staff, and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs for granting them permission to use the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Star Marianas, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for participating in numerous scrimmage sessions.

He also thanked his wife, Joyce, and all of the parents and

families of the team for supporting the group during its training sessions especially in the month leading into the competition.

In the finals, THS built an early 25-14 edge in the opening 10 minutes on the coattails of Pettis and Babauta who combined for 16 points out of the gate.

The Stallions then pressed ahead, 47-29, and got its bench involved though Pettis remained at the helm and added 8 points in the second quarter. Teammate Michael San Nicolas provided 3 baskets in support.

Babauta led THS' attack after the break with 9 markers and though MHS made an effort to tighten up on defense, the Stallions mobile center Pettis still managed to sink a handful from the charity stripe.

THS led it, 67-55, heading into the closing period and it appeared as though they would walk off with the win as MHS mainstays Erik Dela Rosa and John Darag were both kept on

short leashes.

Dela Rosa was held to just 6 points for the game and was routinely challenged in the trenches for rebounds as well.

He fouled out with six minutes left in regulation to make things appear even more grim for the Dolphins, but instead of giving up the team dug deep and ignited a late rally surge in the last five minutes of the game.

MHS' Shane Deleon Guerrero played like a beast, especially for a freshman, and helped give Darag some relief on the scoring end.

He tallied a dozen markers in the second half to lead a plethora of teammates.

It was all hands on deck for MHS as they battled back to within a possession, 74-77, with just under two minutes to go, but eventually the Stallions pulled it together on defense and got it done.

THS' Pettis went on to can three more free throws under

pressure in the last minute in between a pair of clutch baskets by San Nicolas.

In related news, using funds from its Brabu grant, MISO organizers gave away 75 basketballs evenly distributed to all of its participating member schools before Saturday's championship tip off.

In addition, there was a scary moment just before intermission of the championship pairing as MHS' Justin Cayading suffered a head injury after hitting the ground awkwardly during a collision with a THS player for a loose ball.

The game stopped for about 20 minutes as emergency medics were contacted and rushed to the scene.

As of Saturday evening his coach, Steve Jents, who accompanied him to the hospital said that Cayading was doing okay, though the doctors kept him overnight upon running a head scan.

THS 84 – Pettis 29, Babauta 25, San Nicolas 16, Borja III 10, Nabors 2, Sandbergen 2.

MHS 78 – Darag 24, Deleon Guerrero 17, Aguilar

12, Cayading 6, Dela Rosa 6, Mancao 6, Ano 2, Cholymay 2, Zapanta.

Scoring by quarters: 25-14, 47-29, 67-55, 84-78.

YANKEES

From Page 28

with IT&E taking on the D-9ers (0-3); five teams complete the field.

Yankees 5, Angels 4

It was a tied ballgame, 1-1, as both teams put a run on the board in the second inning, but the Yankees quickly spurted ahead, 3-1, in the ensuing frame with patience at the plate and the help of some untimely errors as the Angels continued to work out the bugs from the previous exchange.

Jerome Delos Santos drew a walk, stole second base, and scored off a wild pitch after being moved to third off an error, while Greg Camacho spanked a double and scored off an error up the middle.

Then the Yankees secured a couple of insurance runs in the bottom of the seventh inning and fortunately so, as the Angels postured a legitimate rally in the late innings.

Yankees' Robert Bansil and Ben Jones started off the inning with a single and a triple followed by a sacrifice fly by Delos Santos.

Going back to earlier in the match, the Angels knocked Yankees starting pitcher Bobbie Castro off the mound in the second inning, however they struggled against reliever Ton Benavente on his five-inning watch.

Benavente denied the Angels access to the plate through the thick of the match until finally getting touched at the start of the eighth inning.

Angels' Jesus Iguel hit a one-out single and stole two bases before trotting home off a wild pitch, which ultimately led to Dave Camacho being tapped to close the match with one out left in the frame.

Camacho had some control issues upon stepping to the hump for the last three outs, but reclaimed his composure with his back against the wall and logged two strikeouts to end it.

Winning pitcher Benavente gave up one earned run off five hits, a walk and a bean ball.

Yankees' Bansil batted 3-for-3 with a run and a stolen base.

Fielders 11, Brewers 10

The Brewers imposed a commanding 6-0 lead in the very first inning off crummy pitching, but the Fielders did not wilt in the face of adversity; after a leadoff single to start the game the Brewers' were gifted five walks, an error, and a pair of hit batsmen.

IT&E only responded with one run in the bottom portion, but added three more in the second inning off two hits and a fielder's choice and then pulled in front, 8-6, in the third inning with another four runs off three hits that resulted in RBI singles for Shane Mendiola and Joseph Palacios and a two-RBI base smash by Jordan Pangelinan. IT&E's Juan Maratita also busted a two-RBI single back in the second inning.

IT&E's Richard Dela Cruz singled and made it around in the fourth inning and the squad plated its last two runs in the fifth inning and went on to keep a lid on the Brewers after the stretch.

The Brewers managed one run in the top of the seventh inning and threatened IT&E with a quick three runs in the final stand, but the latter would not be denied.

IT&E's Palacios batted 2-for-4 with an RBI, three runs, and a base on balls. Mendiola swung 2-for-3 for an RBI, two runs, and a base on ball. Pangelinan went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs. Brewers' Manny Sablan went 1-for-2 with two runs and a base on ball.

CNMI

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vert against 174-ranked Nepal.

The Gorkhalis could have scored more against the Blue Ayuyus if not for the gallant stand of goalkeeper Johann Noetzel, who had 10 saves alone in the second half and at least five in the first.

Noetzel's efforts were lauded by CNMI supporters who went to Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan last late Saturday night to watch the Commonwealth's striker's first men's game in the AFC. The Blue Ayuyus goalkeeper's defensive recovery midway in the second half drew the loud cheers from the CNMI supporters, as he stepped in to break a scramble for the ball inside the box and picked up the leather. Noetzel dove, rolled, and leapt for several saves in both the second and first halves.

Noetzel had to rush for numerous saves, as Nepal was very aggressive attacking from the CNMI's weak defensive spots—the right and left wings.

According to Nepal's football website, the host's first attempt for a goal started when Jagjeet Shrestha crossed from the left flank and Sahukhala blocked CNMI defenders, leaving Kwas open for the header and giving Gorkhalis the 1-0 lead in the third minute.

After an early defensive miscue, the CNMI played tough defense for more than 20 minutes before Nepal scored another header (28th minute) from Sahukhala also off Shrestha's cross from the left wing. The host then made it a 3-0 advantage four minutes before the first half ended when Kwas converted a goal off a right cross pass from Rabin Shrestha.

Kwas completed a hat-trick in the second half when he received another right cross inside the box and CNMI defenders failed to kick the ball out. Nepal's two other goals in the second half came off a penalty kick and a long shot. Lucas Knecht was caught for a foul after colliding against Jagjeet Shrestha and Tamang took the penalty shot with the ball rolling to the

left corner and Noetzel gliding to his right. Rai made the long shot a few feet away from the penalty box and Noetzel struggled for a save, using his right leg, but the ball rolled in.

While Nepal dominated possession in the first half, the CNMI had only one attempt for a goal and fell short when Joe Miller's hit inside the center box was too slow to roll and was picked up by the host's goalie.

Miller then had two more chances of putting the CNMI in the scoreboard in the second half but again failed to cash in on these opportunities. The first one came early in the second half when Yuki Adachi was pushed and fouled by a Nepal defender from the left wing. Miller went for the free kick, but the ball bounced off Nepal and CNMI players and the Commonwealth failed to make a follow-up. The second free kick came with less than 20 minutes left in the second half when Peter Loken was fouled, however Miller's booming shot was tapped out by Nepal's goalie.

The CNMI had limited chance

es on offense, as its players were mostly camping out on Nepal's court for defense and every time Noetzel went for a long kick, only one and sometimes no Blue Ayuyus was there to receive the leather and anchor an attack.

Despite the loss, Luam Khen Koo still considered the game against Nepal a good result.

"We are in a learning process. It is good that our young players are gaining experience.

We are playing in our first big tournament and I think this is still a good result for us. We will try our best to play good matches," said Koo, who used 13 players in the opener.

Joining Noetzel, Miller, Knecht Adachi, and Loken on the CNMI's starting roster against Nepal were Bo Barry, Dae Won Jeon, Nick Swaim, Dan Westphal, Steve McKagan, and Trey Dunn, while Jehn Joyner and Raphael Zapanta came off the bench.

Meanwhile, the CNMI will take on the tough Palestine today at 2:05pm (about 6pm Saipan time). Palestine edged Bangladesh last Saturday, 1-0.

Weekend Sports

Competitions galore

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Athletes' busy schedule continued for the second straight week with competitions everywhere on Saipan and off-island.

In the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, three leagues had their games last week. In the MISO girls volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Grace Christian Academy won the championship after beating the Saipan International School Lady Green Geckos in the finals, 25-15, 25-17. In girls soccer, MHS ruled the regular season, sweeping all its six games. In the boys basketball league, Saipan Southern High School is leading the way, winning its first eight matches in the regular season.

Still in basketball, Adobo is also undefeated in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging being played at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, improving to a 6-0 record after last Friday's games in Division B. Also earning wins last week were Chinatown and JWS.

Over at the Garapan Basketball Court for the Blue Haus caging Angie's Boys and Refaluwasch-Rebels repulsed separate foes to set up a duel for the first finals berth.

At the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai, the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 kicked off with about 60 players joining the competition.

At the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo, Diding Hocog won Amigo Golf Club's February Ace of the Month Tournament, while over at the Marianas Country Club, Felix Sasamoto topped Amigo Golf Club's qualifying round for February.

At the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels and the Tan Holdings Brewers defeated the Sen. Ray Yumul D-9ers in the Saipan Major League.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield, the Talaabwogh Star Association Falcons, Attorney Vince Torres Comets II, and the IT&E Ol'Aces remain undefeated in the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Far north at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, the U18 competition in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League is pretty event with the three participating teams—Paire, Tan Holdings, and MP United—sporting similar 1-1 records after Week 3.

Still at the Hopwood pitch, Matansa and Tan Holdings prevailed over MP United and Shirley's respectively, in the girls U15 league, while MP United and Tan Holdings won their boys U15 games over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Still in soccer, the CNMI Men's National Team arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal, and played its first game in the Group D of the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers last Saturday.



Players and officials of the CNMI Men's National Team for pose a photo in Kathmandu, Nepal last week before starting their practice session.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Falcons pitcher in action at the plate during a game in the Major Division of the Saipan Little League last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
St. Michael's Medical Response Angels third baseman Tim Cruz, right, dives to apply a tag to the ankle of Saipan Stevedore Co. Northern Yankees' Byron Kaipat during last week's game in the SML at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Chris Hilario leaps for a return to Kok Pang during their singles match in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 last week at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Chinatown's Paul Quizon drives to the baseline against Maplas La Mani's Rommel Usi during their Division B game in the DLX caging last week at the TSL Sports Complex.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Jeralyn Castillo kicks the ball during their earlier game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO girls soccer league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last month.

Sources: Flacco agrees to Ravens deal

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Noah, Booser lead Bulls past Nets, 96-85

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mamiko rules ultra marathon



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joshua Berger expected his wife Mamiko to finish first in the women's division of the 50K race in last Saturday's 2013 Saipan Marathon and the latter did not disappoint her better half.



Mamiko completed the ultra marathon in 4:11:02, not only beating last year's winner Yoko Yamazawa, but also crushing the latter's record (4:19:21). The 45-year-old Yamazawa had to settle for a runner-up honors this year, as she came in to the finish line at the American Memorial Park more than 17 minutes behind Mamiko after clocking in at 4:28:24.

Rounding out the Top 6 finishers in the women's 50K were twin sisters Eri and Mari Yamamoto, who incidentally submitted identical times of 4:57:57, Chiemi Sato (5:00:00) and Yuko Sanada (5:39:55).

When asked if she was expecting to win the longest race of the day, Mamiko said no, as she knew she was facing a tough foe in Yamazawa.

"I did not expect to win it at all, but Joshua thought I will. I saw the name of last year's female winner on the list and she is one of the famous long distance runners in Japan, so I did not think I could beat her," the 42-year-old Saipan runner said.

Mamiko led from start to finish in the race that brought runners to as far as the Banzai Cliff, to Capital Hill (to the road leading up Mt. Tapochao), and to Susupe (across the Shell gas station before the traffic lights at Chalan Kanoa) before heading back to AMP.

"The weather was perfect. The best part for me was running under moonlight in my favorite Marpi. I was leading from the beginning. I wanted to catch up the second male runner, but my legs

See MAMIKO on Page 26

Mamiko Oshima-Berger smiles, as she is about to cut the tape and finish the 50K race in last Saturday's 2013 Saipan Marathon.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI falls to Nepal in opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI Men's National Team bowed to its ranked foe and host Nepal, 0-6, in the opening of the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers last Saturday night at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.

The Blue Ayuyus made defensive lapses in their AFC debut, allowing the host to dominate the match in front of more than 15,000 fans.

Striker Bharat Kawas scored a hat-trick in the lopsided win, while Taju Tamang, Sandip Rai, and Santosh Sahukhala added one each for Nepal. The CNMI had three chances of scoring, but could not convert.

See CNMI on Page 26



CNMI Men's National Team goalie Johann Noetzel dives for one of the several saves he made against Nepal during their opening game in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers last Saturday night at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.
WWW.GOALNEPAL.COM

Yankees, IT&E eke out wins

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Saipan Stevedore Co. Yankees continue to thrive atop the standings as the defending champions extended its undefeated streak to four, while the IT&E Fielders bounced back with a win after coming up short in its debut in last week's Saipan

Major League Baseball Association's matchups at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees hung on and narrowly escaped the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (1-2), 5-4, on Friday night, while IT&E stood up the Tan Holdings Brewers (2-2), 11-10, last Wednesday.

The action continues at Tan Ko Field tonight at 6:30pm
See YANKEES on Page 26

Stallions defend MISO boys basketball title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Tinian High School Stallions ran the table again in the Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization's 2013 boys basketball postseason tournament this past Friday and Saturday at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

The seven-man band is made up of seniors Estevan Borja III, Darius Pettis, and Michael San Nicolas; junior Marc Babauta; and sophomores Marvin Cruz Jr. and Henry Sandbergen with freshman Keshawn Nabors, son of head coach Keith Nabors.

The team is also supported



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Tinian High School Stallions pose for a team photo with the perpetual championship trophy and the game net after the conclusion of MISO boys basketball postseason tournament held last Friday and Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

by assistant coach Nathan Aquinogoc and team manager Malcolm Maui.

The Stallions held strong against a late charge by the MHS Dolphins to capture its second straight title, 84-78.

THS swept the field once again despite being heavily outnumbered from a bench depth standpoint.

The Stallions were granted the third seed by MISO organizers at the start of the competition and went through the Mount Carmel Knights, 112-34; and then MHS, 102-96, before slipping past the favored home bet Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, 79-78, to earn its finals bid.

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Stevedore Co. Yankees' Pat Guerrero pulls back as he eyes an incoming pitch against the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels during their SML game last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.